

Traversing the Ten Crucial Days

Historical Interpretation - Tour Packet



TenCrucialDays.org
December 25, 1776 - January 3, 1777

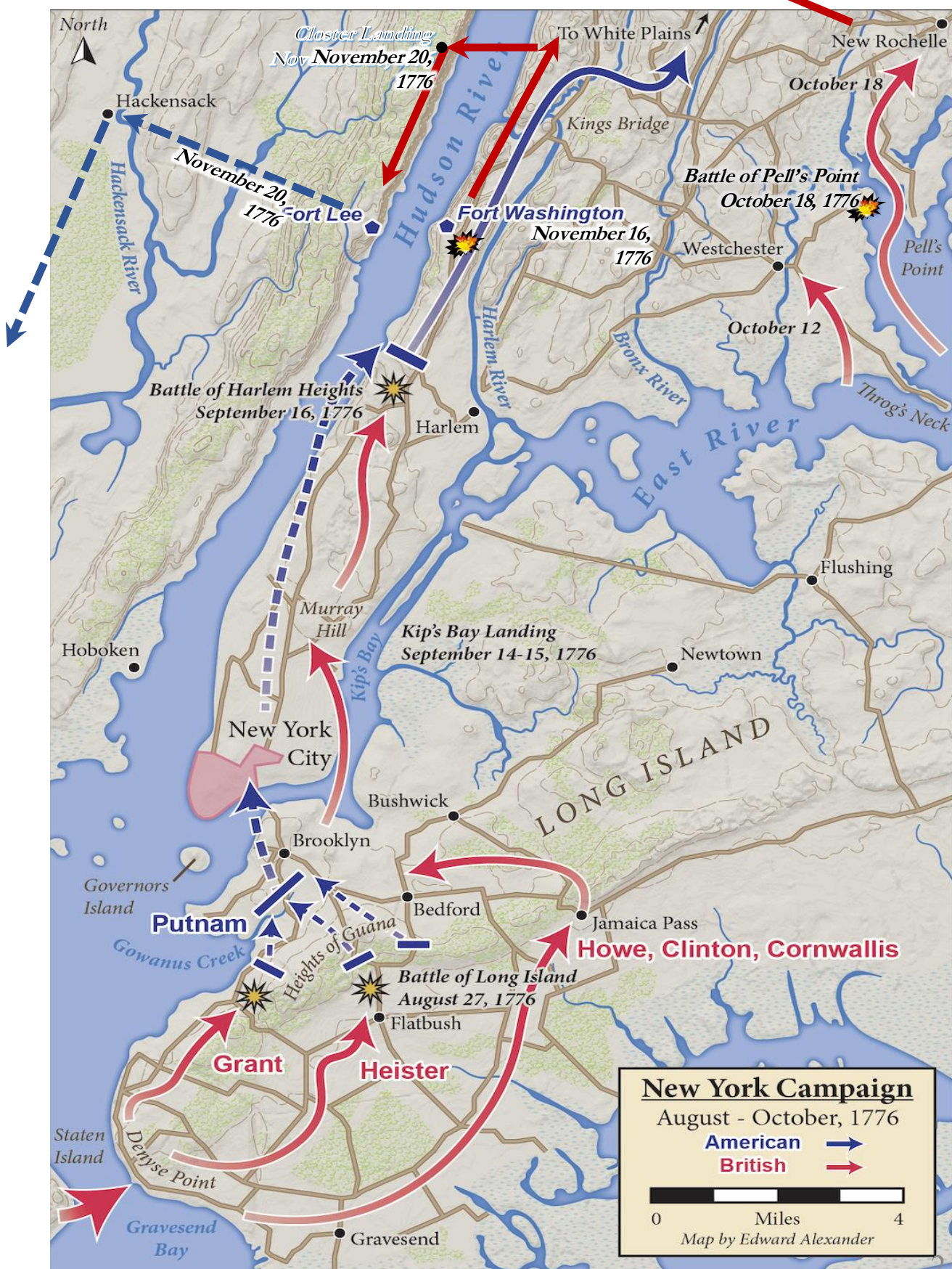
1. Washington Crossing the Delaware, by Lloyd Garrison (2013)
2. Victory or Death, by Don Troiani (2015)
3. Battle of Trenton, by H. Charles McBarron, Jr. (1975)
4. Death of Colonel Rall, by Don Troiani (2016)
5. Battle of Assunpink Creek, by Graham Turner (2009)
6. Battle of Princeton, by Don Troiani (2017)



Tour Host: Friends of Washington Crossing Park
washingtoncrossingpark.org

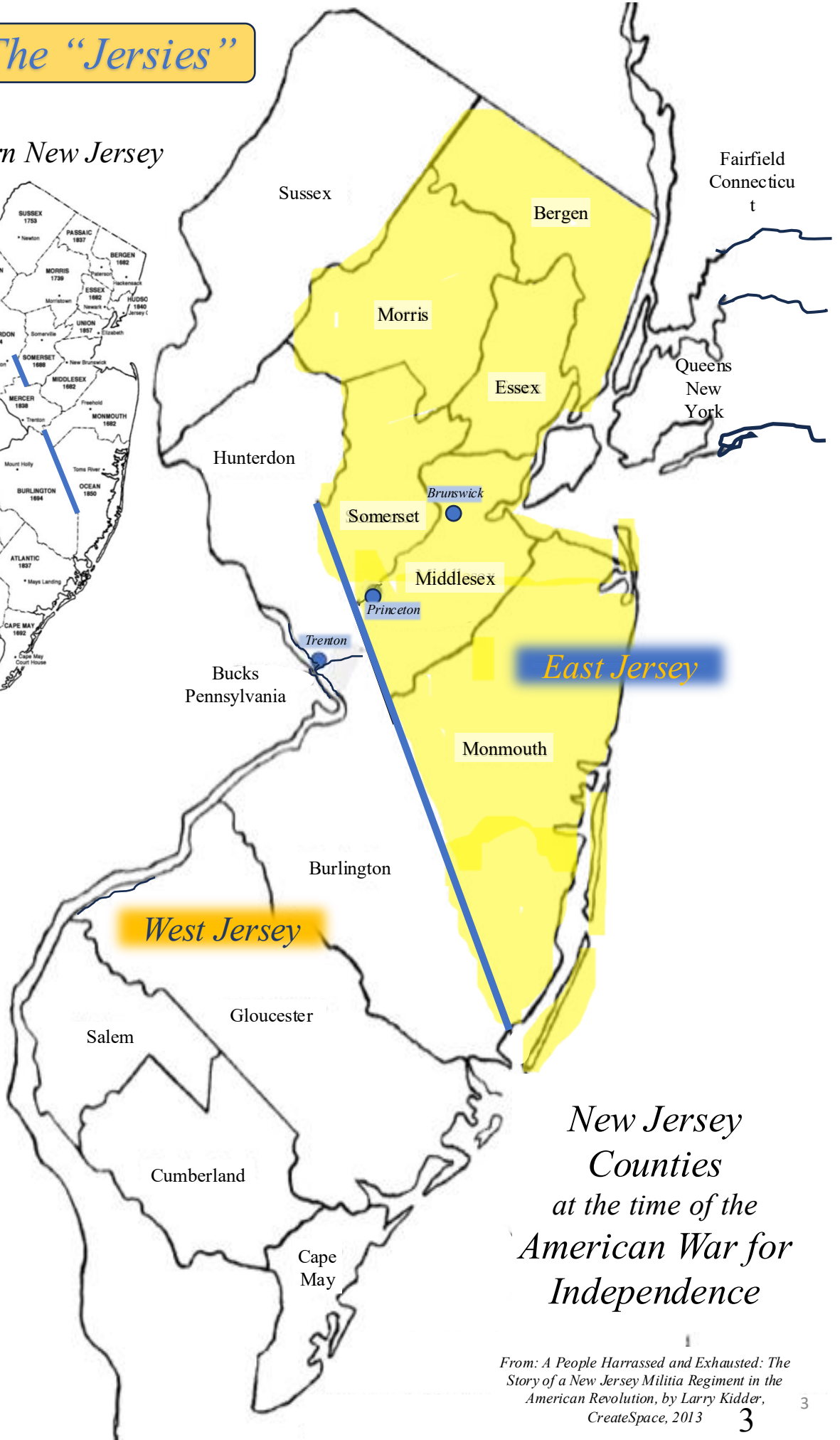
The New York Campaign
August 27 – November 20, 1776

Battle of White Plains
October 28, 1776
Scarsdale



The "Jersies"

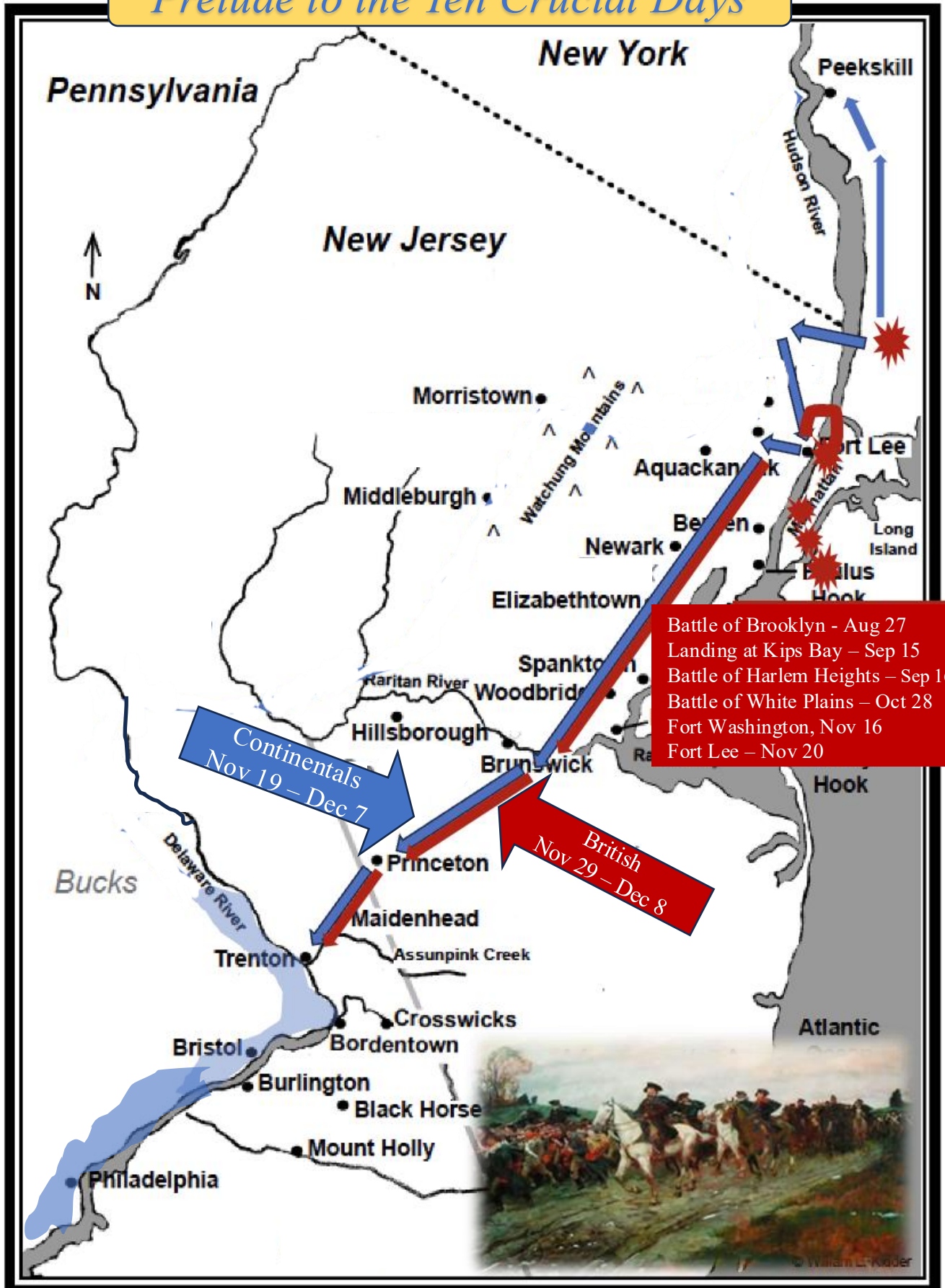
Modern New Jersey



New Jersey Counties at the time of the American War for Independence

From: *A People Harrassed and Exhausted: The Story of a New Jersey Militia Regiment in the American Revolution*, by Larry Kidder, CreateSpace, 2013

Prelude to the Ten Crucial Days

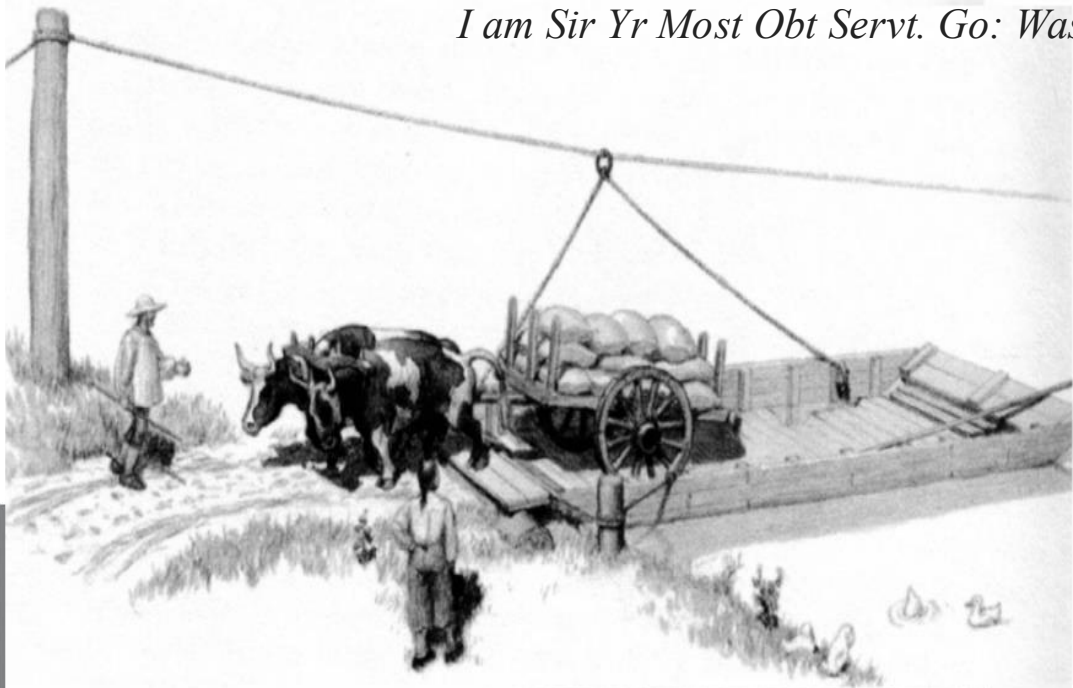


Collecting all the Watercraft on the Delaware

Geo. Washington to Colonel Richard Humpton, Brunswick Decemr 1. 1776.

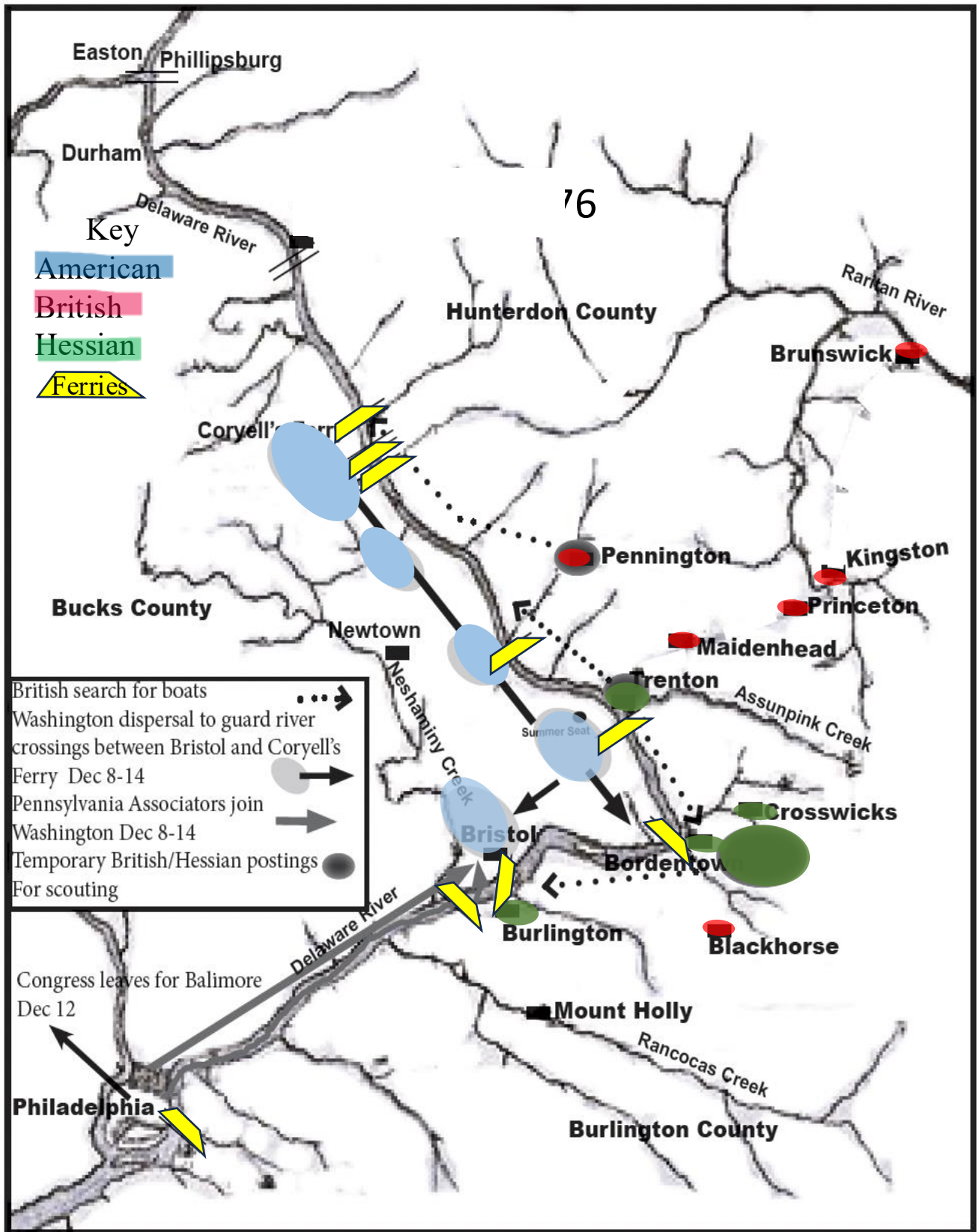
“Sir, You are to proceed to The Two ferry’s near Trentown¹ and to see all the boats there put in the best Order with a sufficiency of Oars and poles and at the same time to Collect all the Additional Boats you [can] from both above and below and have them brought to those ferry’s and Secured for the purpose of Carrying over the Troops & Baggage in most expeditious Manner: & for this purpose you will get every Assistance in the power of the Quarter Master General & any person in his Department. you will **particularly attend Durham Boats** which are very proper for the purpose.² The Baggage & Stores of the Army should be got over the River as soon as possible and placed at some Convenient place a little back from it.

I am Sir Yr Most Obt Servt. Go: Washington



Troop Positions and Ferries

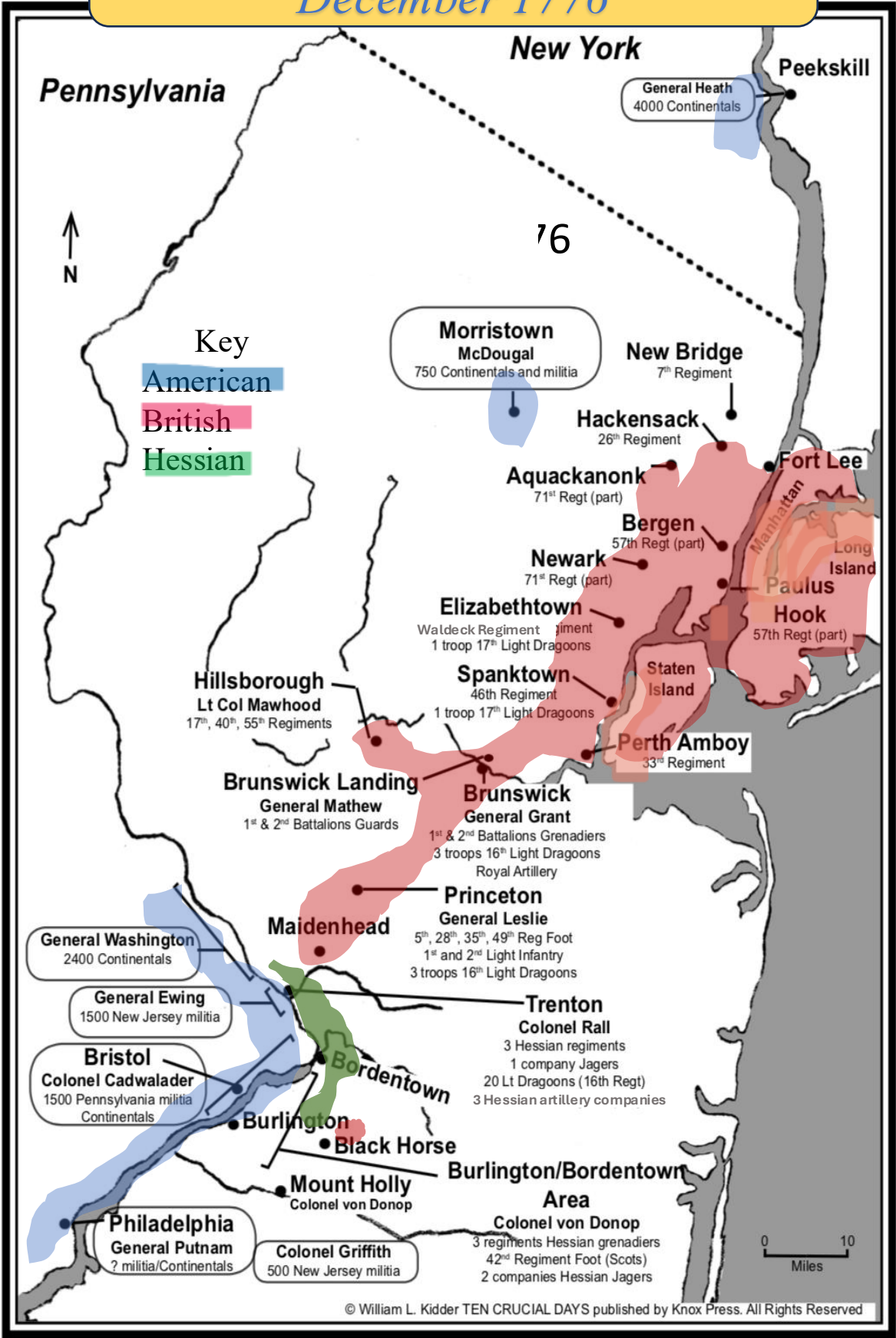
December 1776



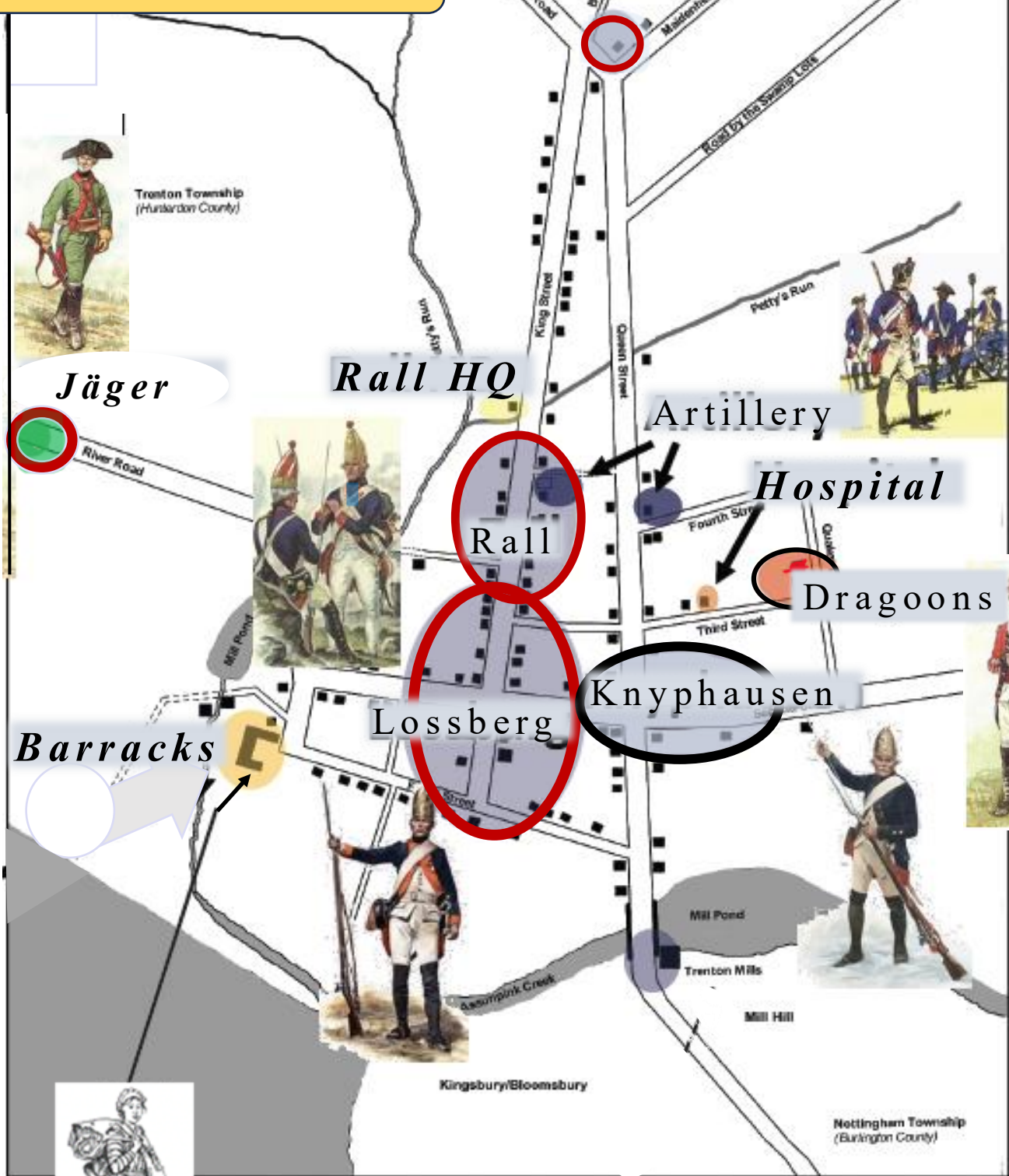
Map 5: December 8 - 14

Americans continue to remove boats to PA - British continue searching for boats
British place troops at Trenton, Pennington, and Bordentown area

British Occupation of New Jersey December 1776

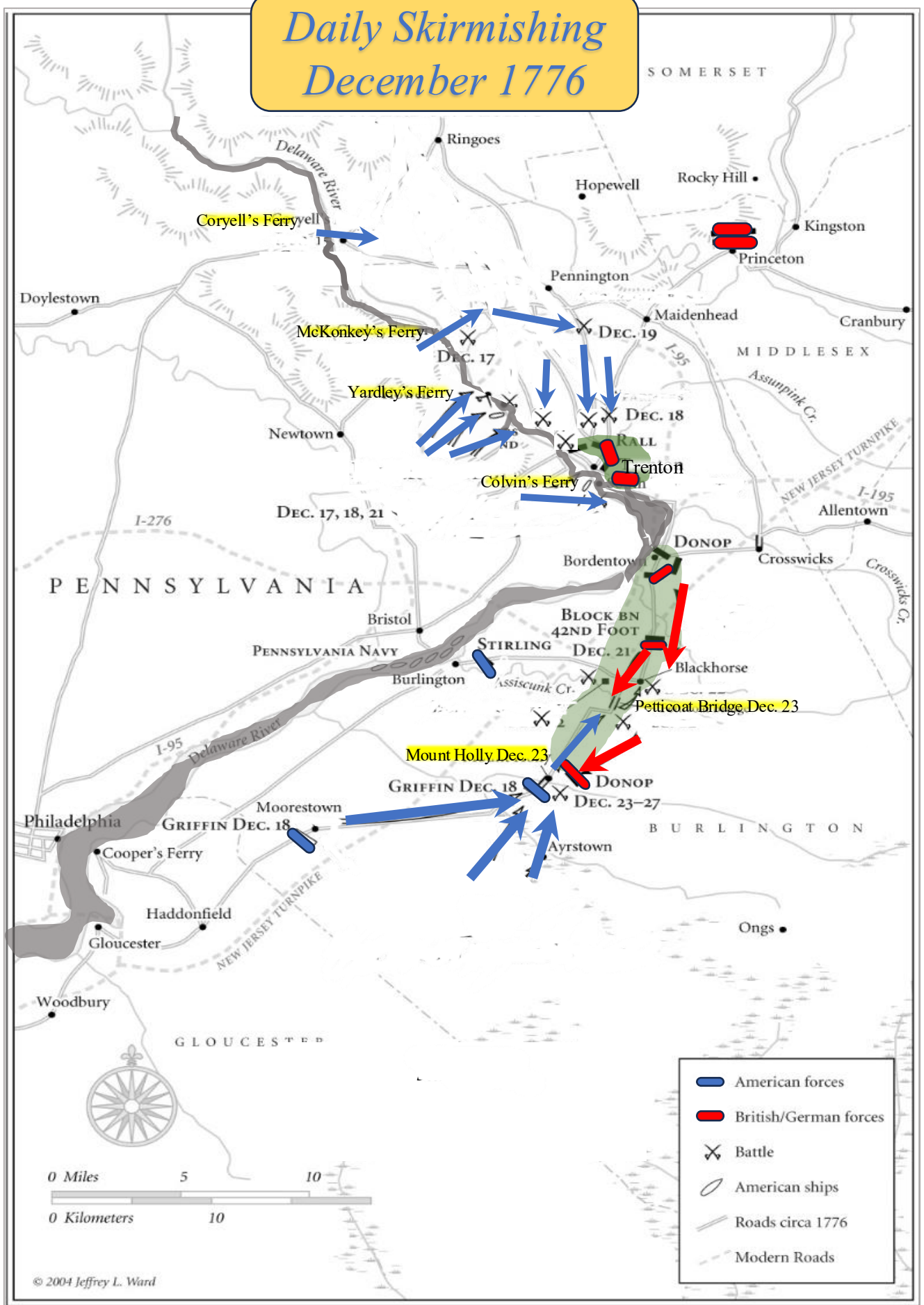


Hessian Occupation of Trenton December 1776



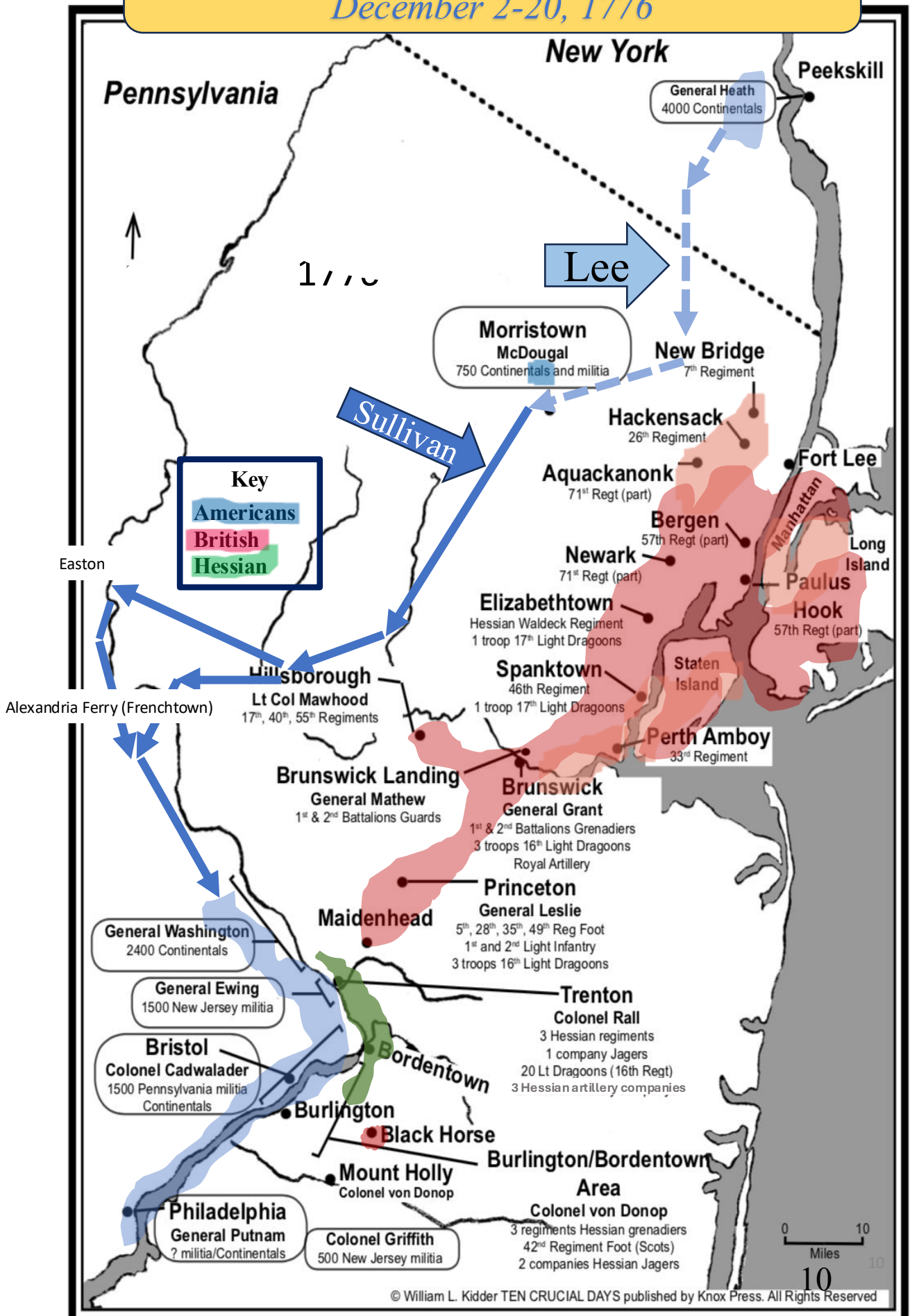
Hessian dependents and some Loyalist civilians occupied the Barracks.

Daily Skirmishing December 1776

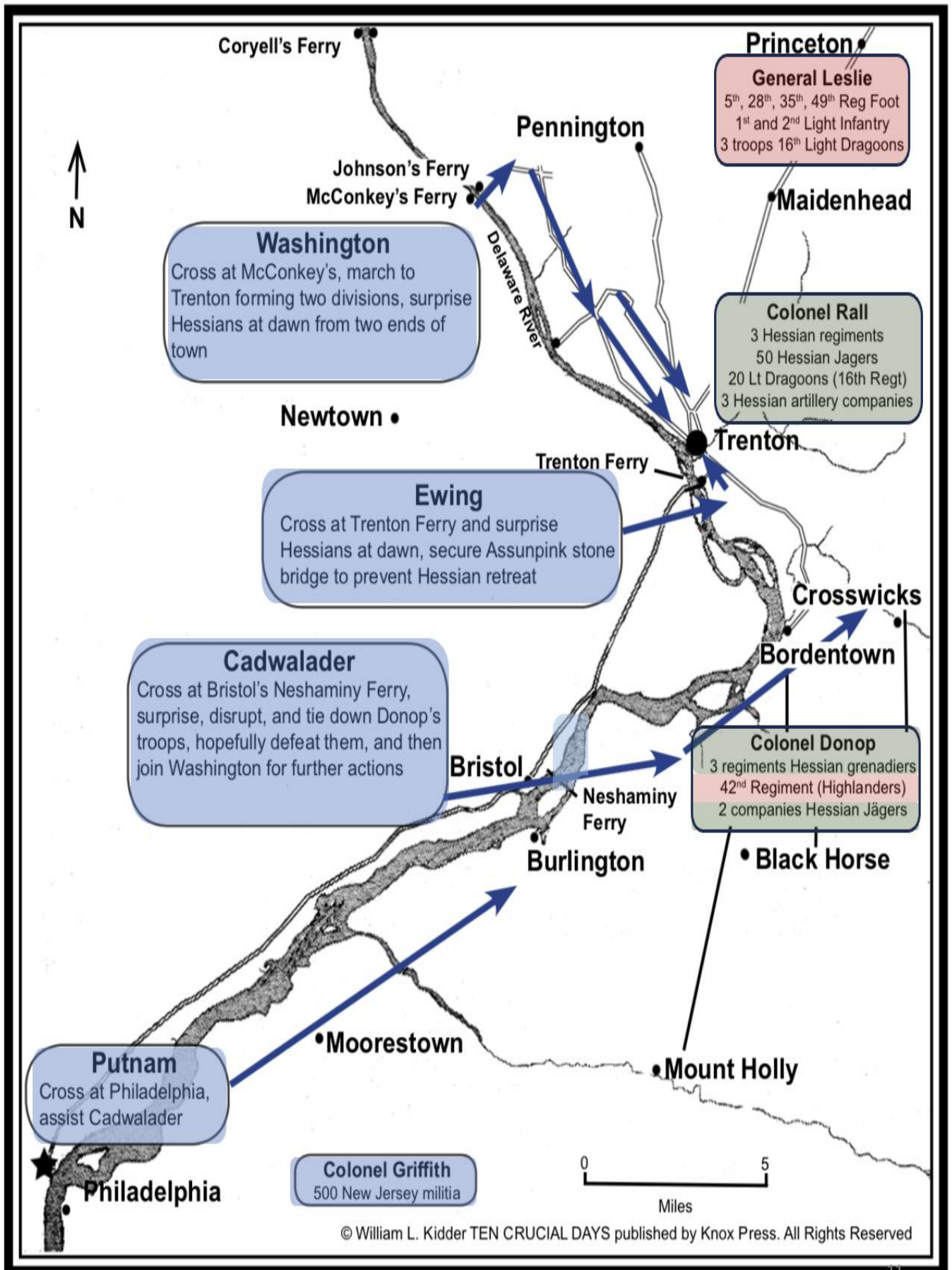


Route of Lee & Sullivan's March

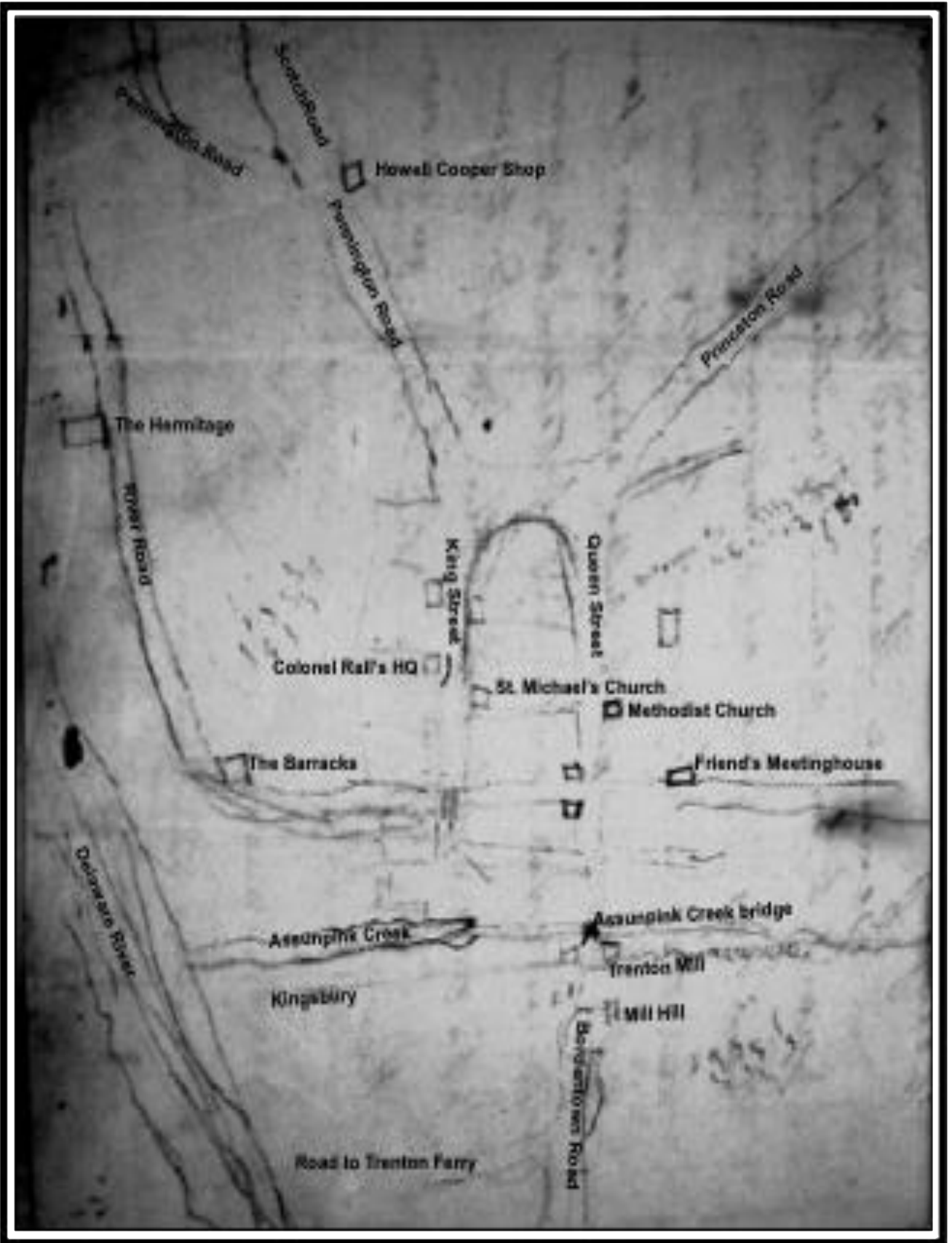
December 2-20, 1776



Plan of Attack on Trenton



*General Henry Knox's Map
Of the Trenton Battle Plan*



You are to see that your men have three days' provisions ready cooked before 12 o'clock this forenoon -- the whole fit for duty except ***a Serjeant and six men to be left with the baggage***, and to parade precisely at four in the afternoon with their arms, accoutrements & ammunition in the best order, with their provisions and blankets -- you will have them told off in divisions in which order they are to march -- eight men abreast, with the officers fixed to their divisions from which they are on no account to separate -- no man is to quit his division on pain of instant punishment -- each officer is to provide himself with ***a piece of white paper stuck in his hat for a field mark***.

You will order your men to assemble and parade them in the valley immediately over the hill on the back of McConkey's Ferry, to remain there for farther orders -- a profound silence is to be observed, both by officers and men, and a strict and ready attention paid to whatever orders may be given -- Each brigade to be furnished with **two good guides**.

The troops to be ***assembled one mile back of McKonkey's Ferry***, and as soon as it begins to grow dark [4:41 pm sunset] the troops to be marched to McKonkey's Ferry, and embark on board the boats in following order under the direction of Colonel Knox.

Captain Washington and Captain Flahaven, with a party of forty men each, to march before the divisions and post themselves on the road about three miles from Trenton, and make prisoners of all going in or coming out of town.

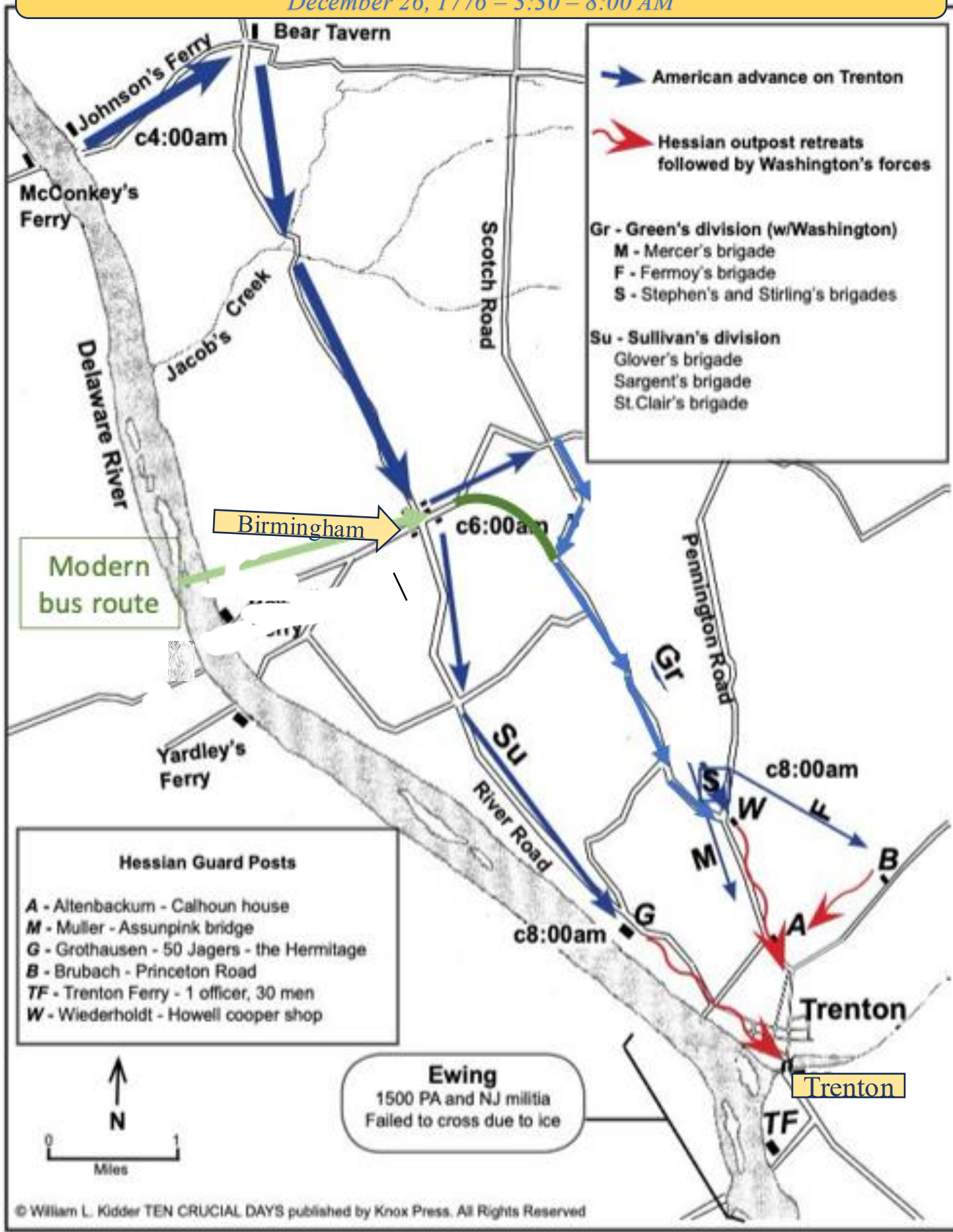
General Stephen's brigade, to embark first; with the detachment of artillerymen, without cannon, provided with spikes and hammers to spike up the enemies' cannon in case of necessity, or to bring them off if it can be effected, the party to be provided with drag-ropes for the purpose of dragging off the canon. General Stephen will appoint a guard ***to form a chain of sentries*** round the landing-place at a sufficient distance from the river to permit the troops to form, this guard not to suffer any person to go in or come out, but to detain all persons who attempt either.

General Mercer's next; Lord Stirling's next; General Fermoy's next. St. Clair's, Glover's, and Sargent's brigades to embark in order. ***Four pieces of artillery to march at the head of each column; three pieces*** at the head of the second brigade of each division; and ***two pieces*** with each of the reserves.

A profound silence to be enjoined, and no man to quit his ranks on the pain of death. Each brigadier to appoint flanking parties; the reserve brigades to appoint the rear-guards of the columns; the heads of the columns to be appointed to arrive at Trenton at five o'clock.

Route of the Night March to Trenton

December 26, 1776 – 3:30 – 8:00 AM

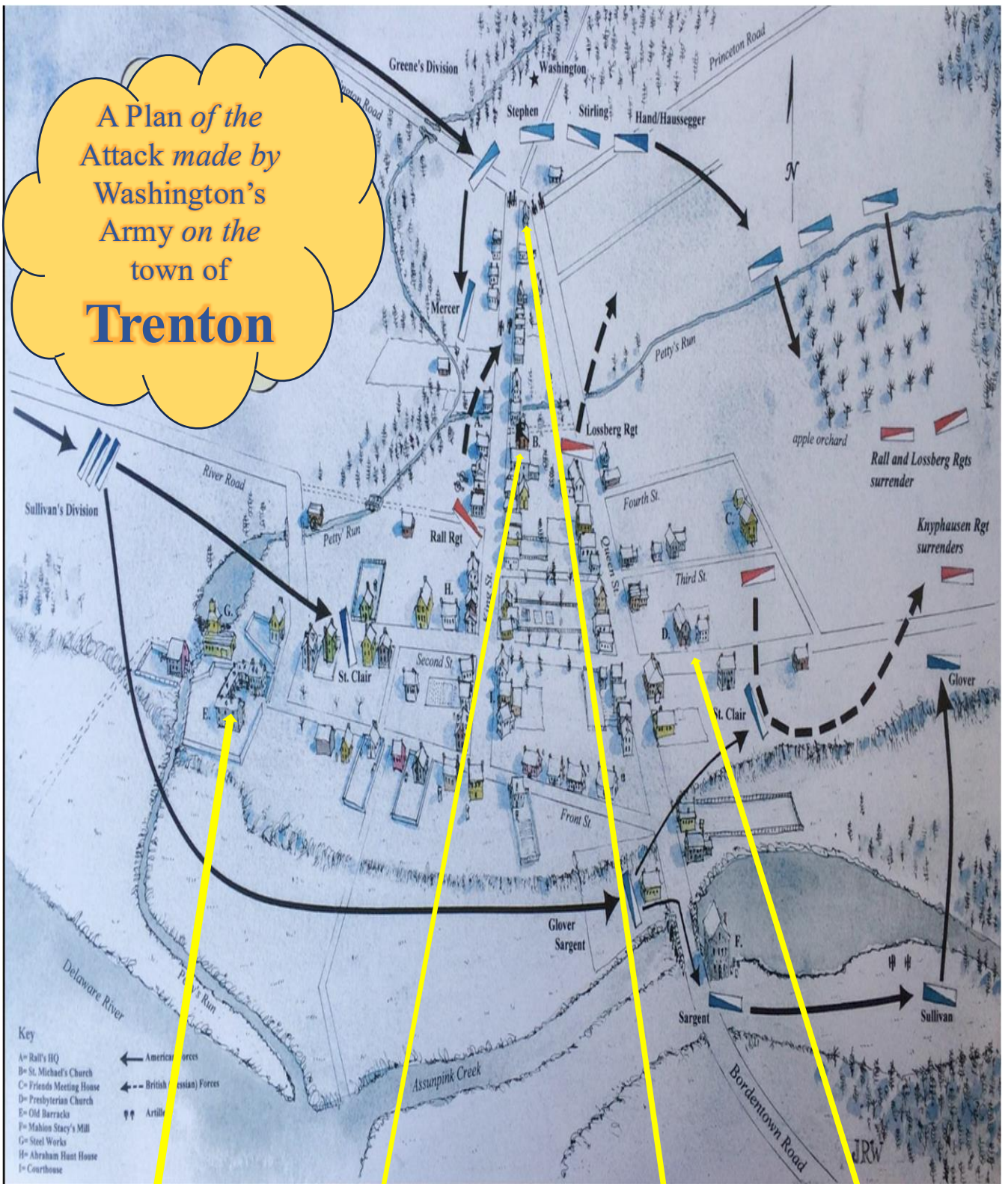


December 26, 1776 – 8:15 to 9:00 AM

December 26, 1776 – 8:15 to 9:00 AM



A Plan of the
Attack made by
Washington's
Army on the
town of
Trenton



Old Barracks
Museum



St. Michael's
Episcopal



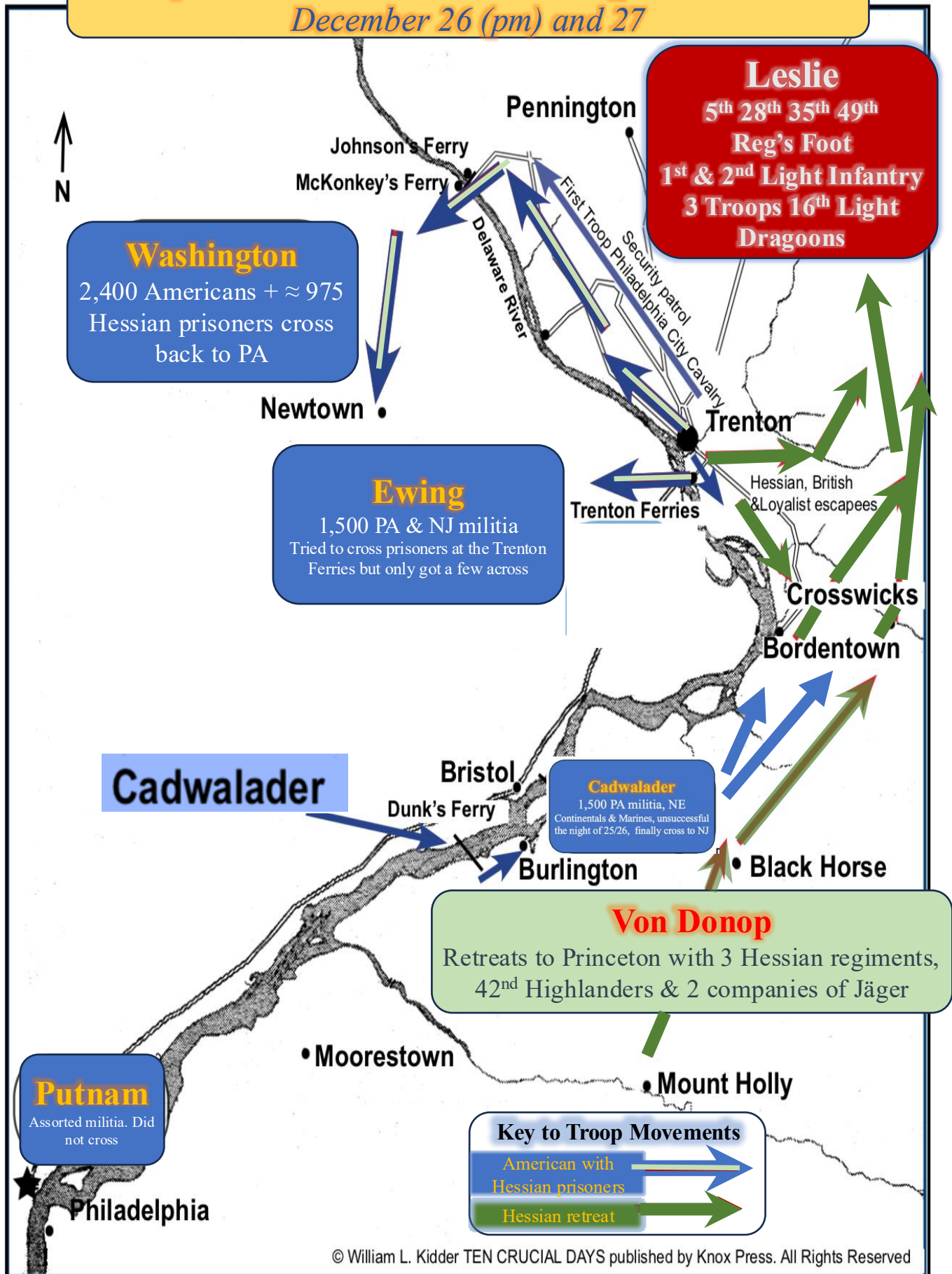
Battle
Monument



First Presbyterian

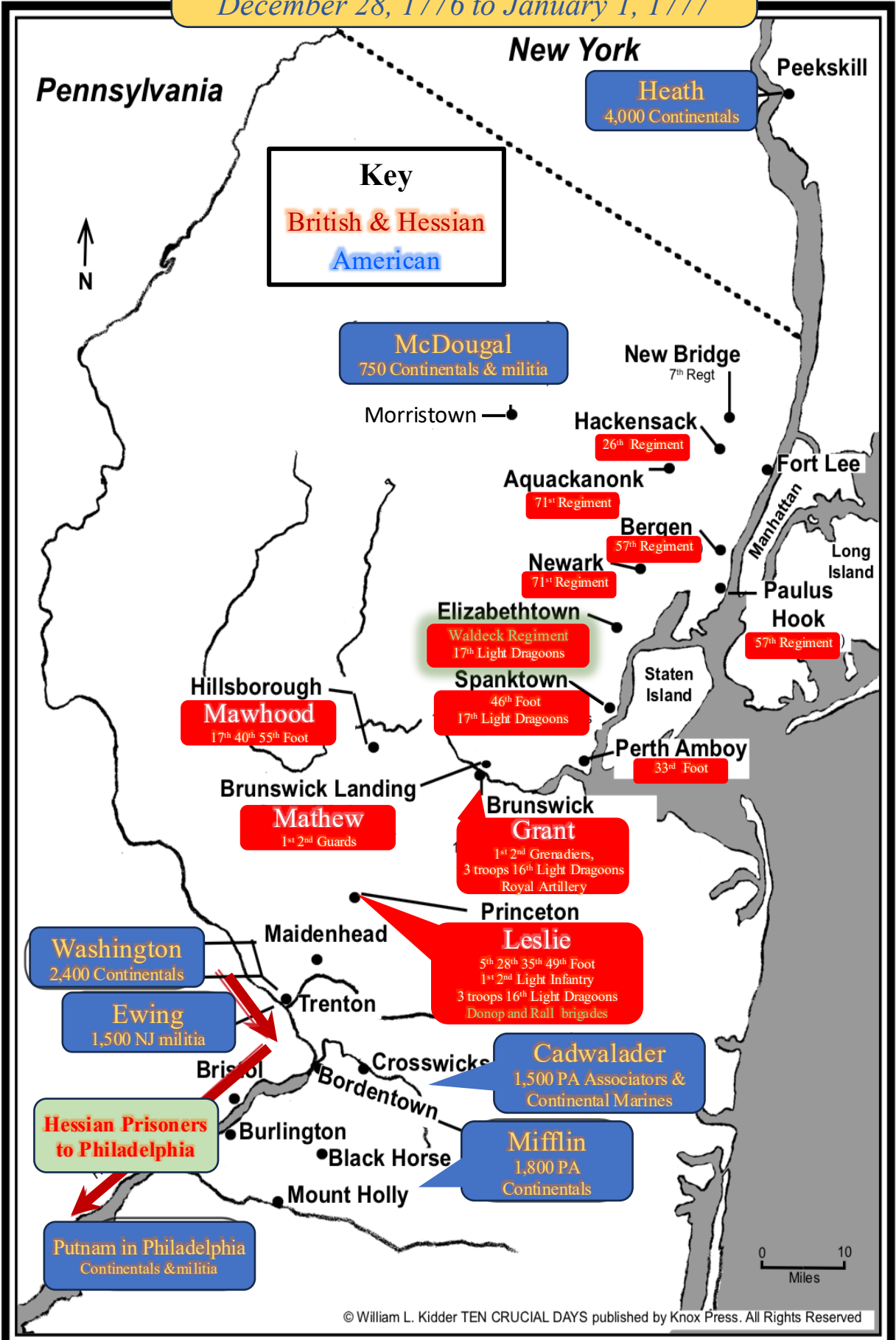
Aftermath - Armies Reposition

December 26 (pm) and 27



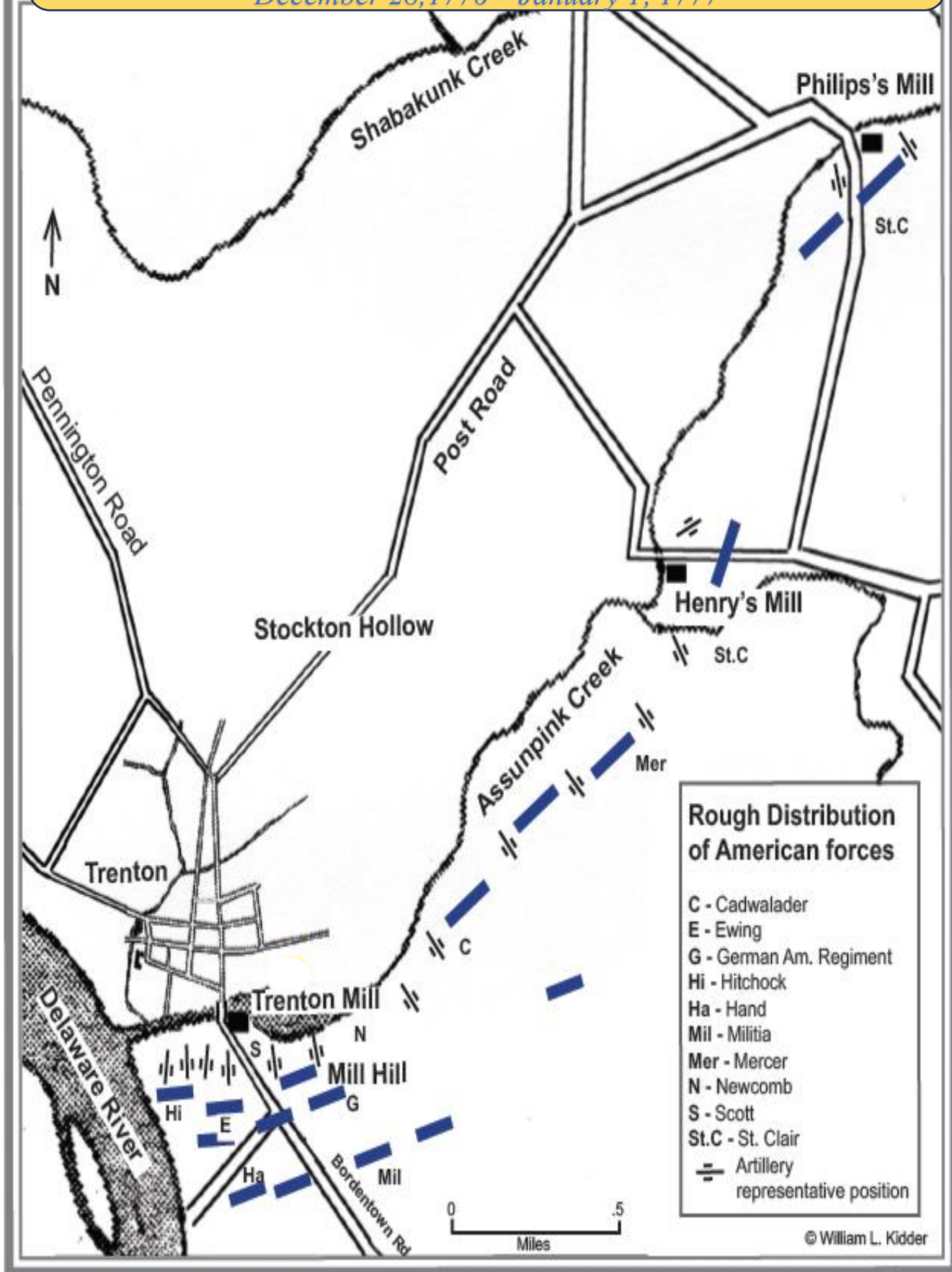
Troop Dispositions

December 28, 1776 to January 1, 1777



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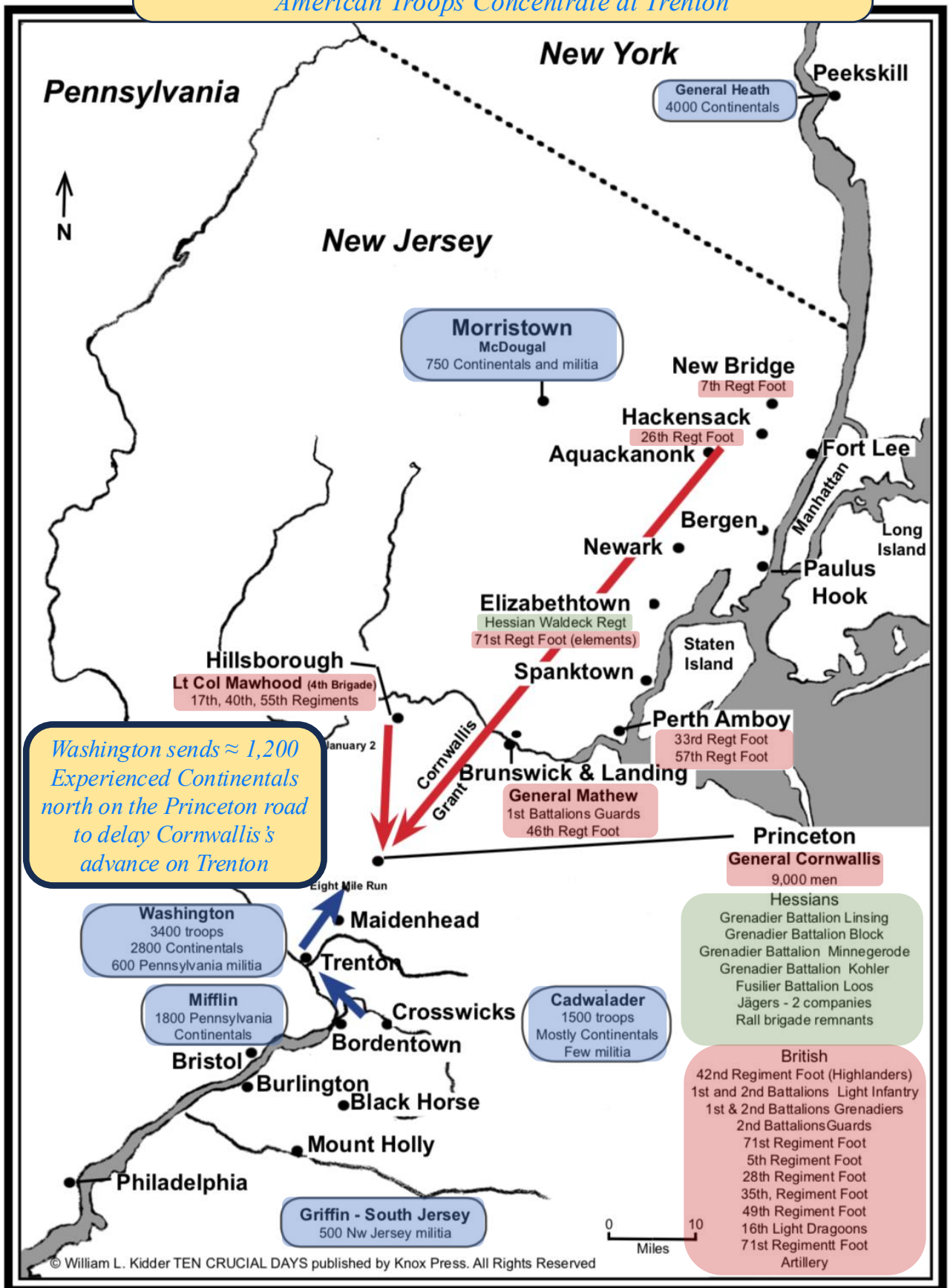
*Washington Prepares Defenses on the
South Bank of the Assunpink Creek
December 28, 1776 – January 1, 1777*



December 28, 1776 to January 1, 1777

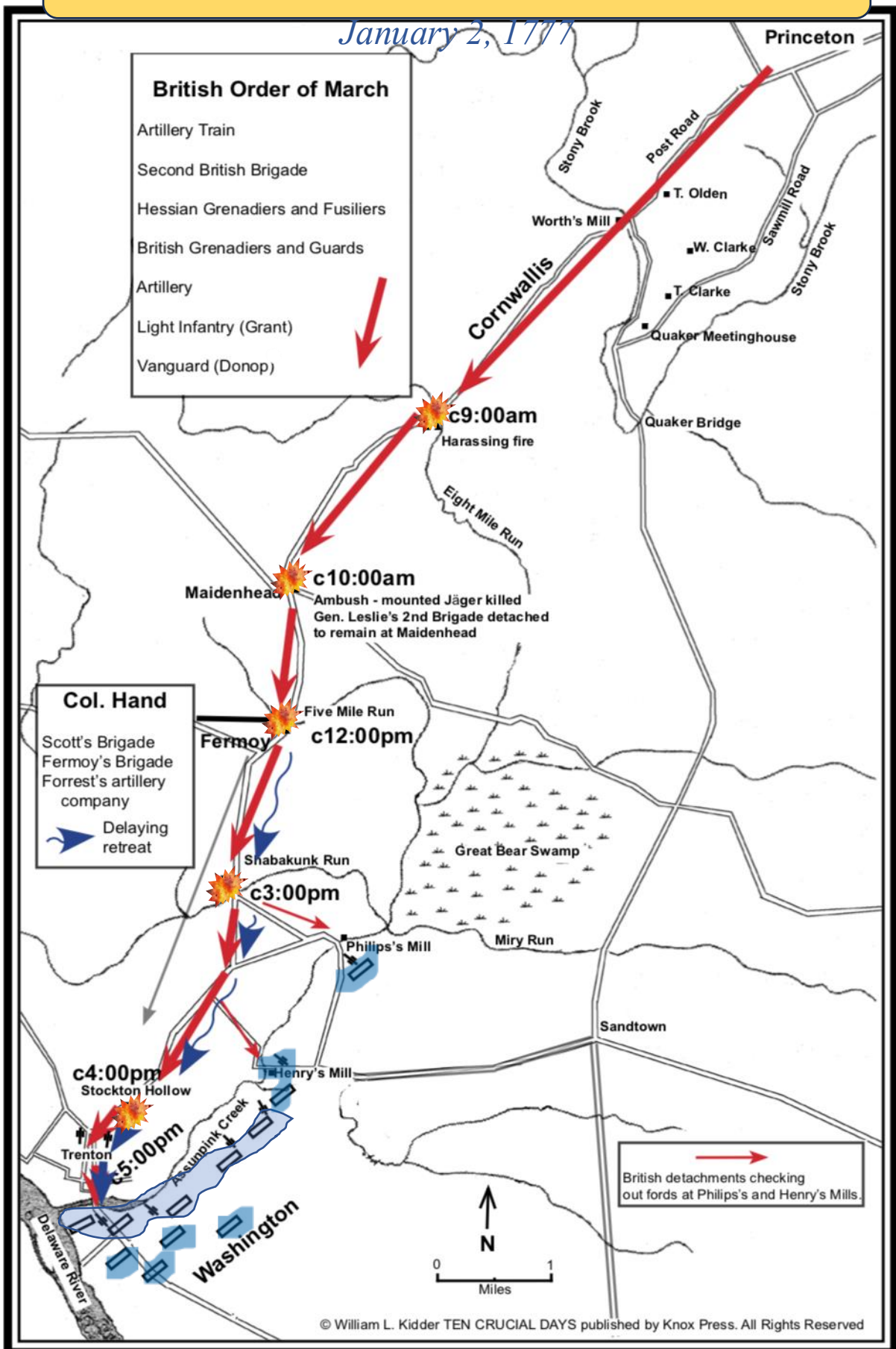
Crown Troops Concentrate at Princeton

American Troops Concentrate at Trenton



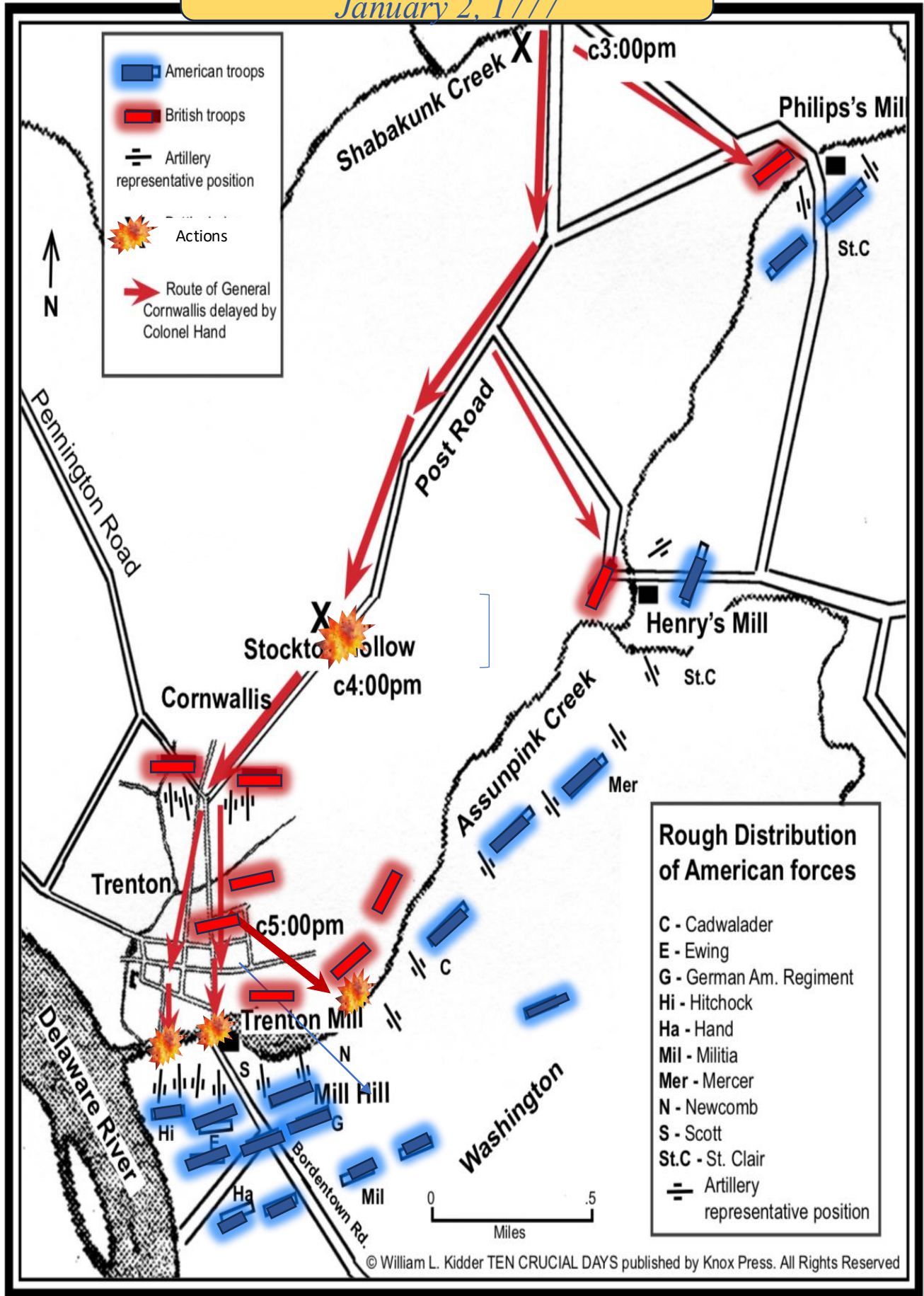
Delaying Action from Princeton to Trenton

January 2, 1777

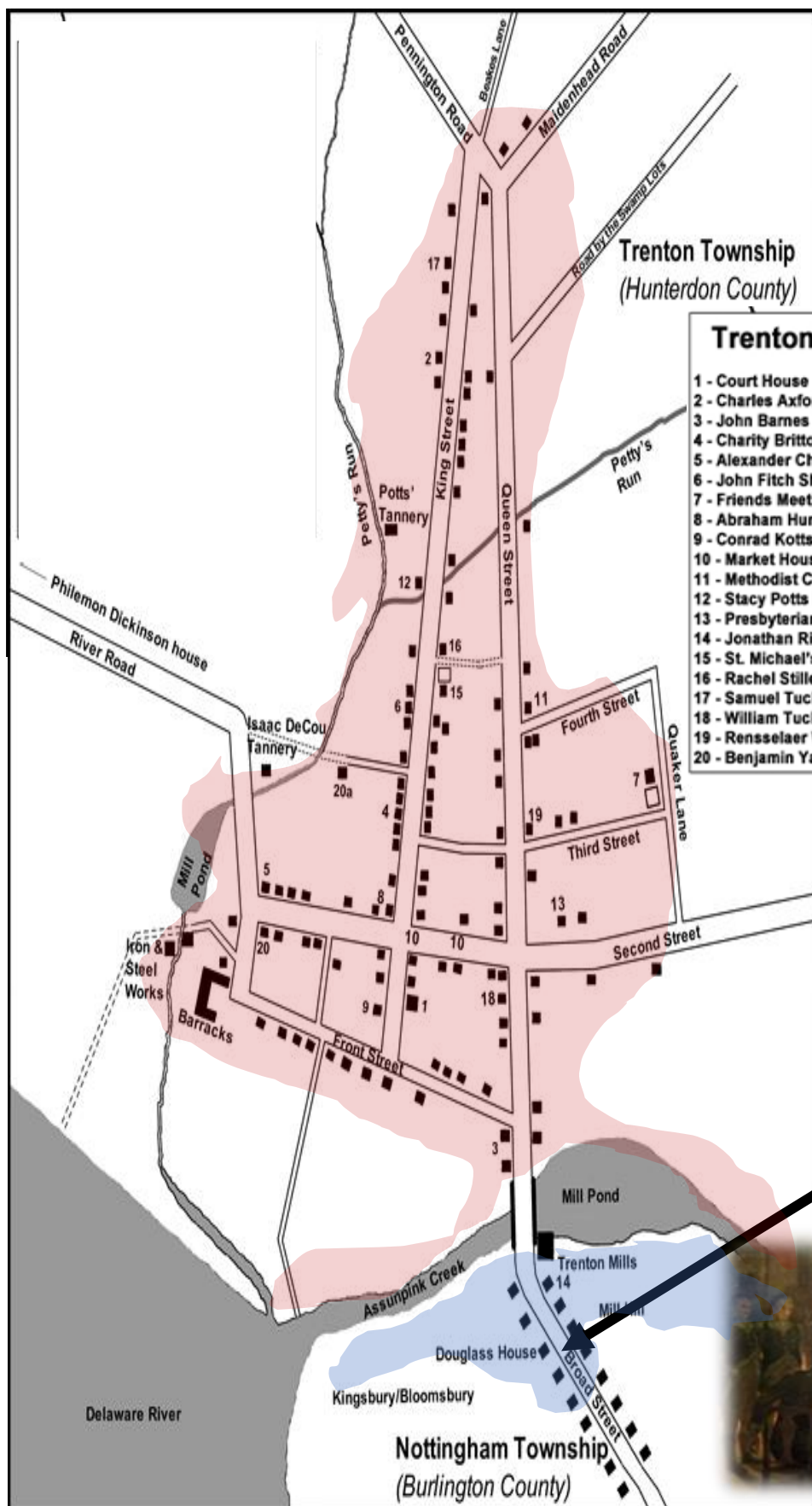


Battle of Assunpink Creek

January 2, 1777

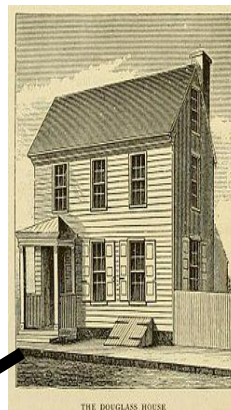


January 2nd – Decision at the Douglass House

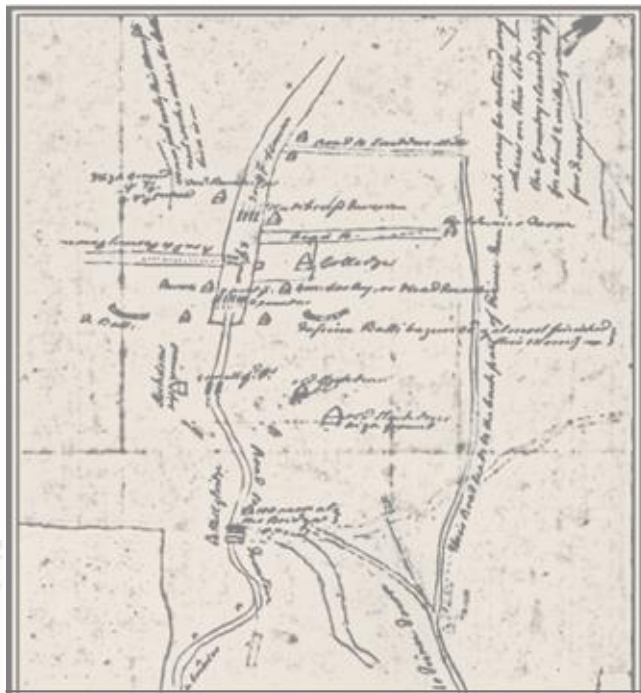


Trenton Town 1774-1783

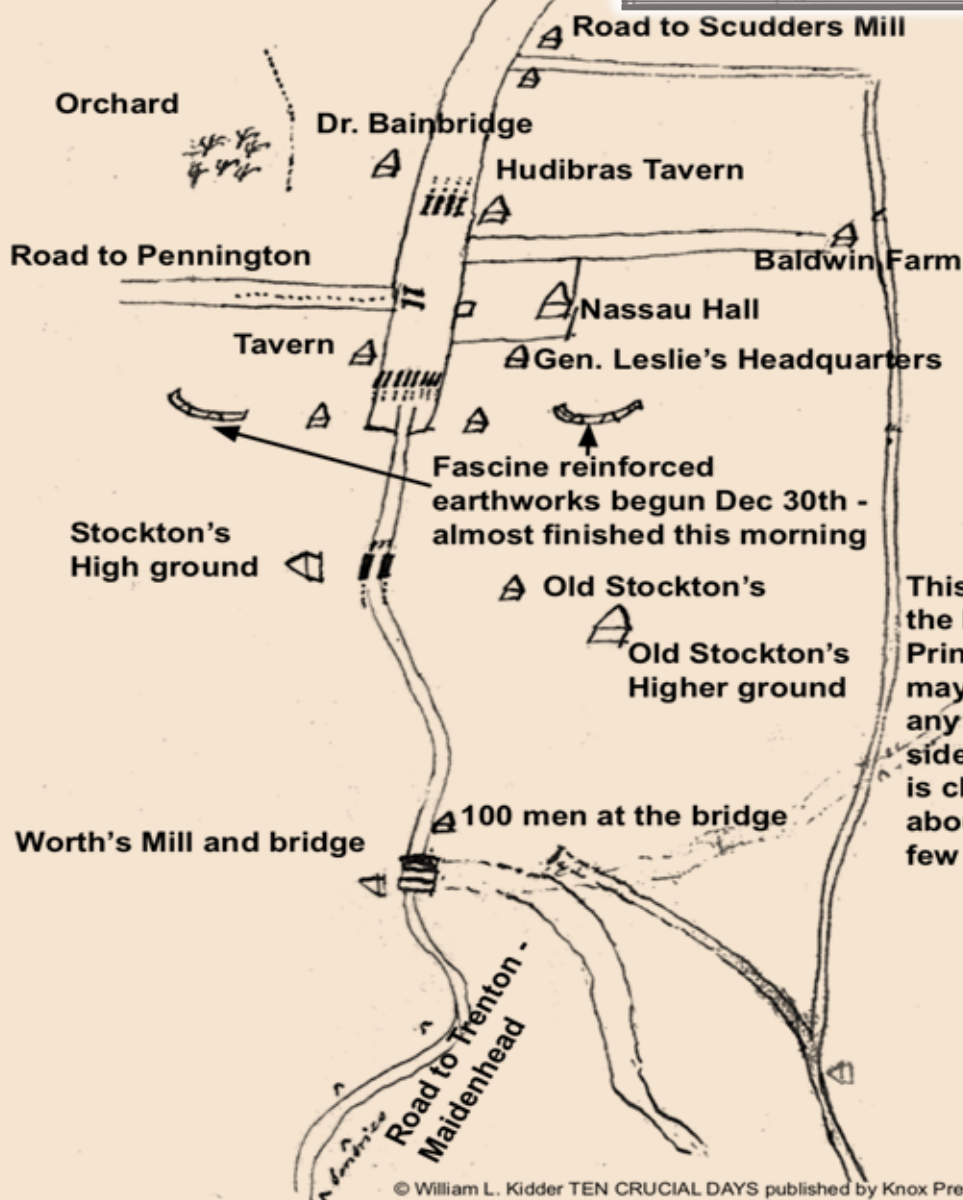
- 1 - Court House
- 2 - Charles Axford Tavern
- 3 - John Barnes House and Distillery
- 4 - Charity Britton Tavern
- 5 - Alexander Chambers house/shop
- 6 - John Fitch Shop
- 7 - Friends Meeting House
- 8 - Abraham Hunt Store
- 9 - Conrad Kotts
- 10 - Market House (possible)
- 11 - Methodist Church
- 12 - Stacy Potts House
- 13 - Presbyterian Church
- 14 - Jonathan Richmond
- 15 - St. Michael's Church
- 16 - Rachel Stille Tavern
- 17 - Samuel Tucker
- 18 - William Tucker
- 19 - Rensselaer Williams Tavern (1776+)
- 20 - Benjamin Yard House - Slaughter House 20a



What Cadwalader's Map Revealed January 2, 1777



100 men began constructing earthworks that morning as indicated by the dotted line.



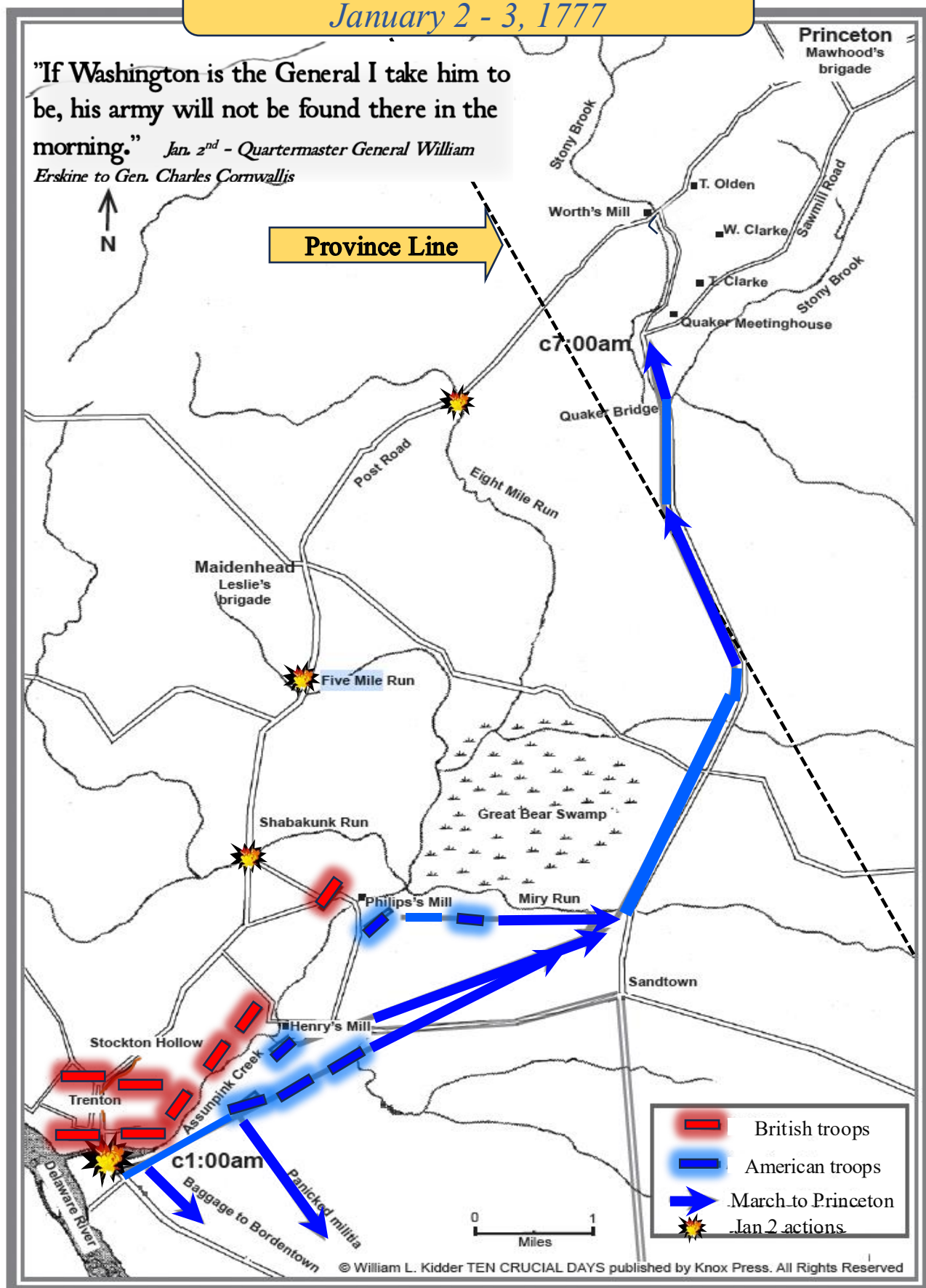
This road leads to the back part of Prince Town which may be entered any where on this side -- the country is cleared, ... for about 2 miles of... few fences ----

Night March to Princeton

January 2 - 3, 1777

"If Washington is the General I take him to be, his army will not be found there in the morning."

Jan. 2nd - Quartermaster General William Erskine to Gen. Charles Cornwallis



Obelisks Marking the Route of the Night March

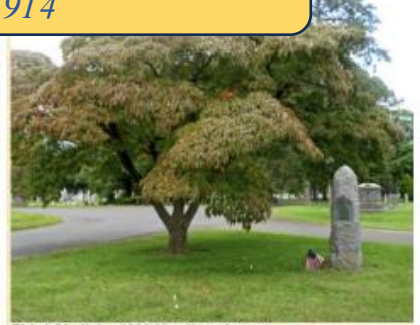
Placed by the Sons of the Revolution - 1914



First Obelisk - Hamilton Avenue at South Broad Street.
In front of the Sun Center National Bank.



Second Obelisk - Hamilton Avenue at Chestnut Avenue.
In front of Bank of America.



Third Obelisk - 1800 Hamilton Avenue.
Inside Greenwood Cemetery.



Fourth Obelisk - 1070 Klockner Road.
In front of the Health Careers Center.



Fifth Obelisk - 77 Christine Avenue / Hamilton, NJ
In front of the VFW.



Sixth Obelisk - Quakerbridge Road near Clearview Ave / Hamilton, NJ
In Median



Seventh Obelisk - 133 Youngs Road / Mercerville, NJ
In front of Hamilton Fitness Center



Eighth Obelisk - Quakerbridge Road & Hughes Drive / Hamilton, NJ
At the corner



Ninth Obelisk - Quakerbridge Rd & Nassau Park Blvd / Lawrence, NJ
In Median on Quakerbridge - Partly hidden in the trees.



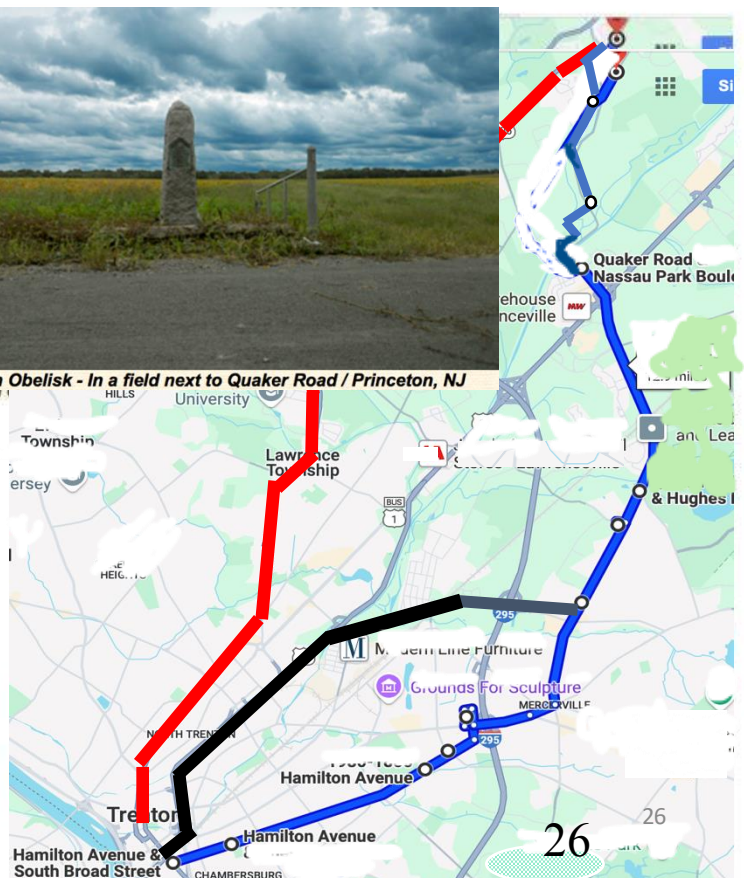
Tenth Obelisk - Quaker Road / Princeton NJ
D & R Canal State Park Trail, right by the parking lot.



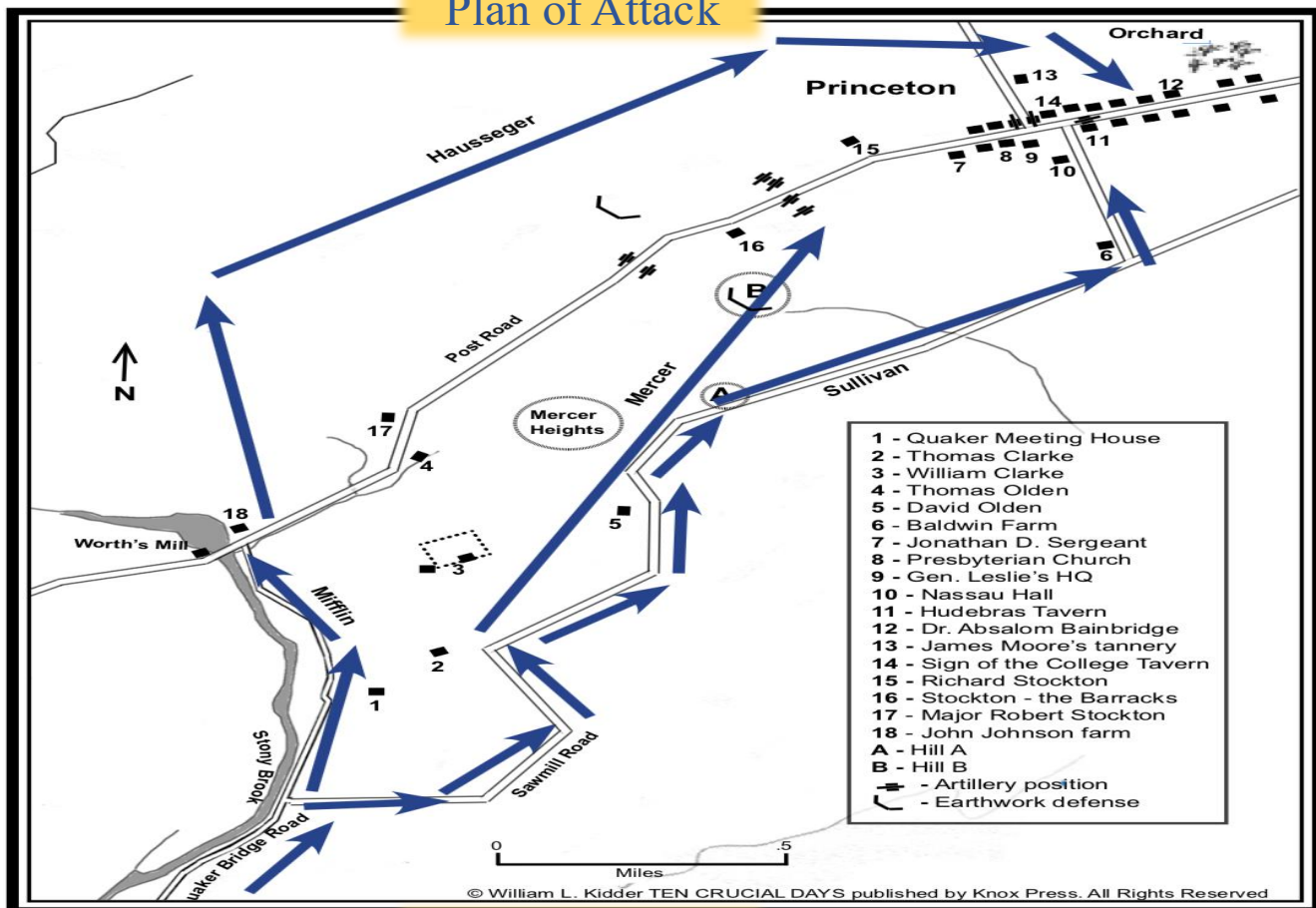
Eleventh Obelisk - In a field next to Quaker Road / Princeton, NJ



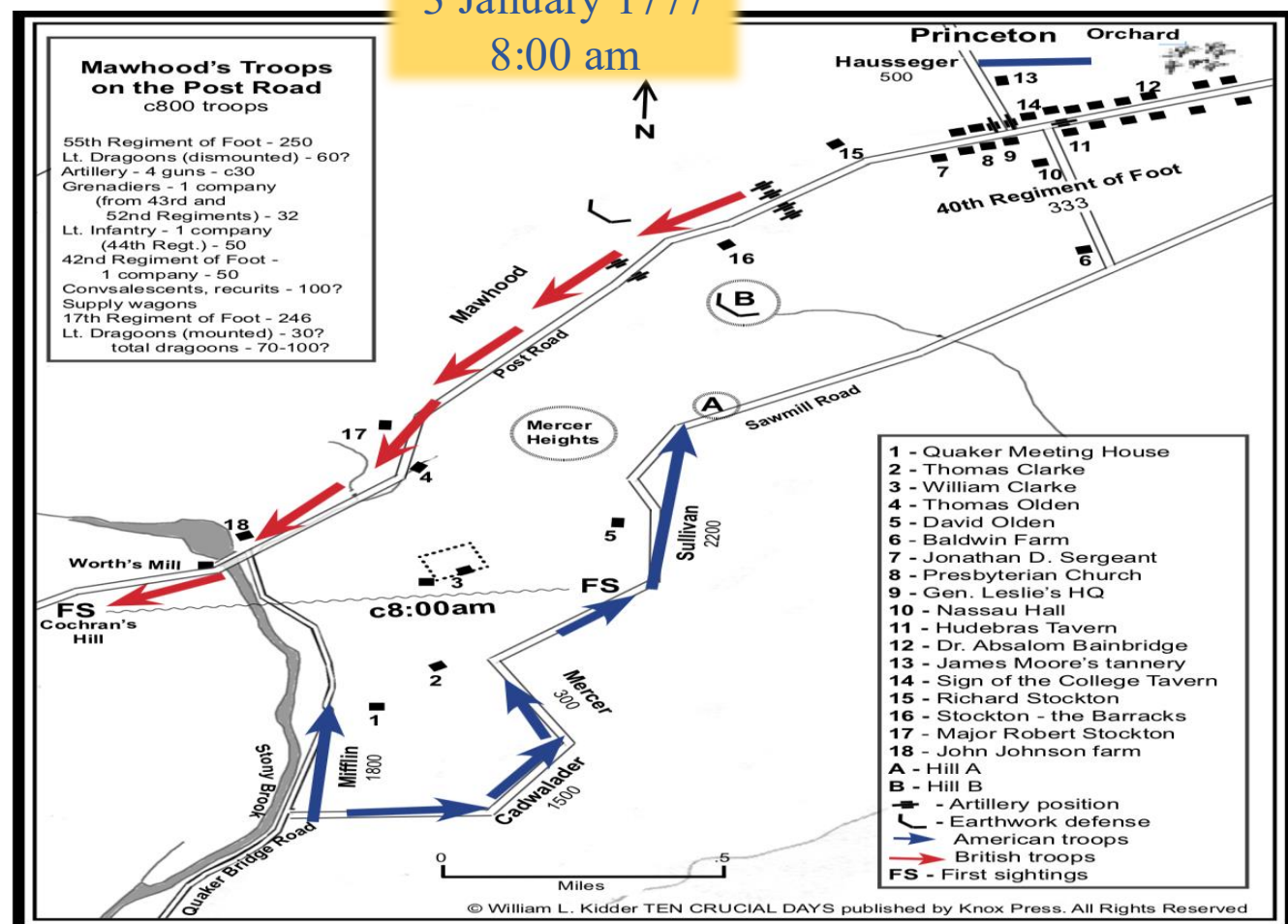
Twelfth Obelisk - Behind Clark House in Princeton Battlefield
In the woods behind the house, on the walking path.



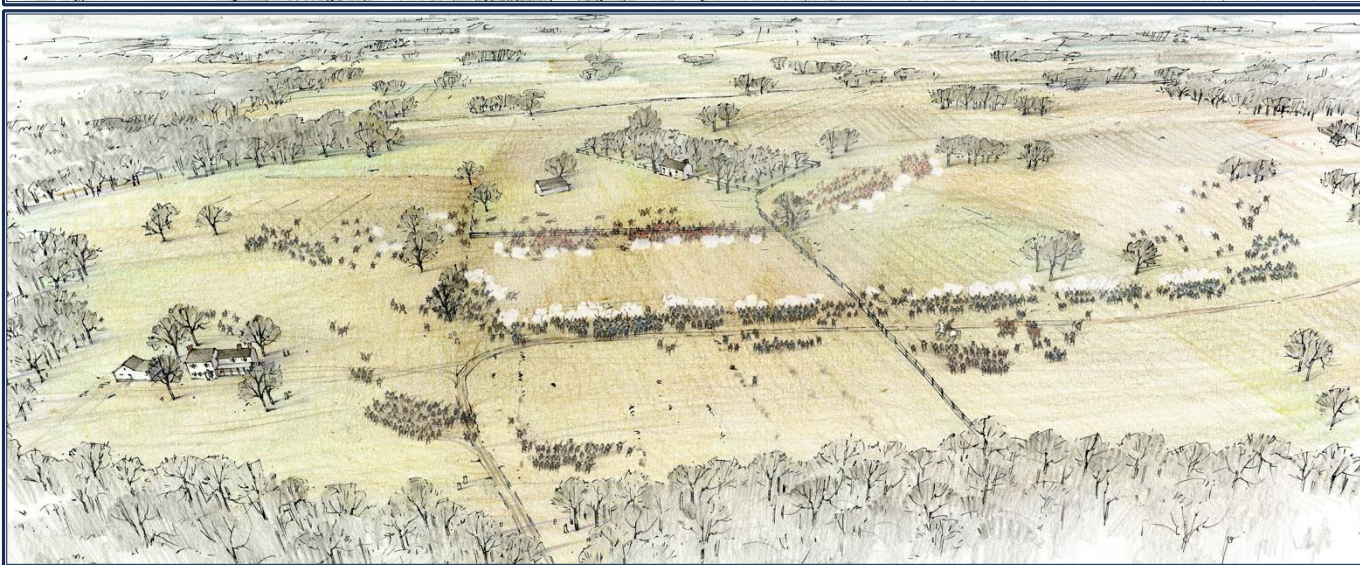
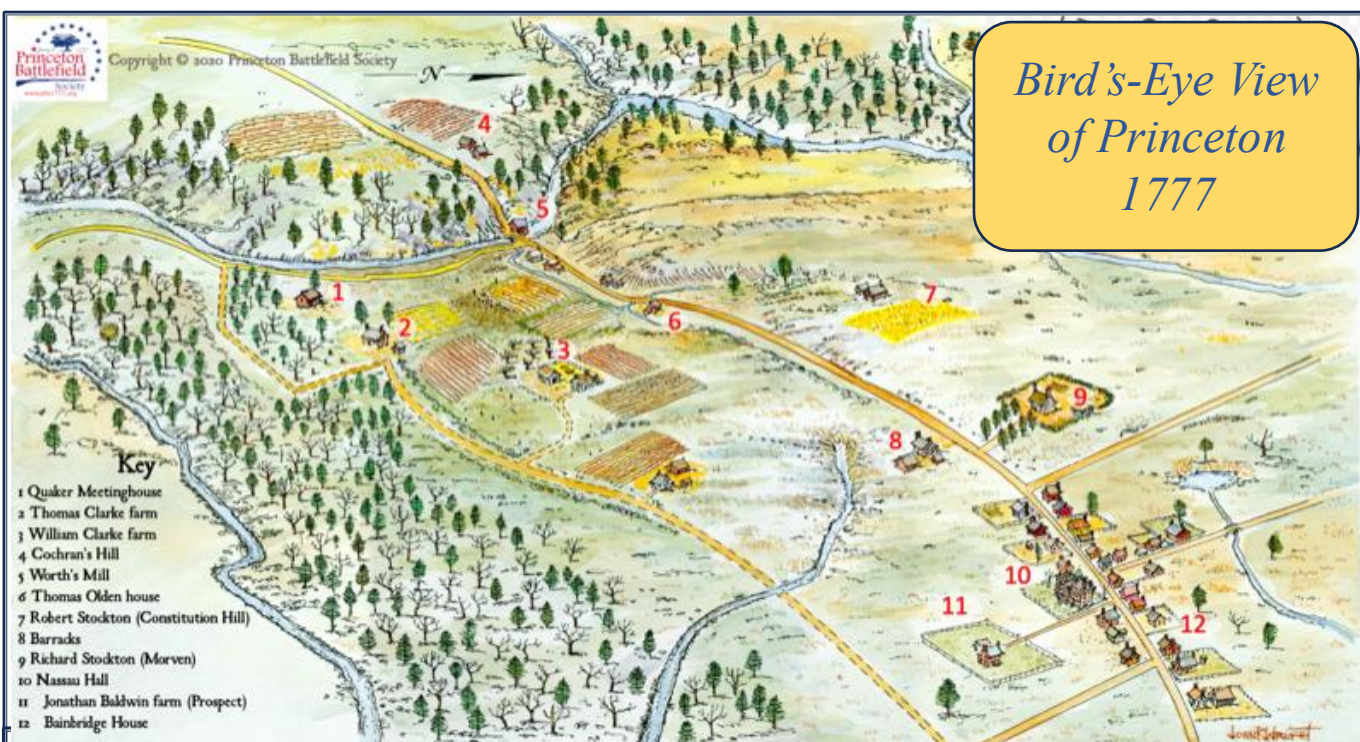
Plan of Attack



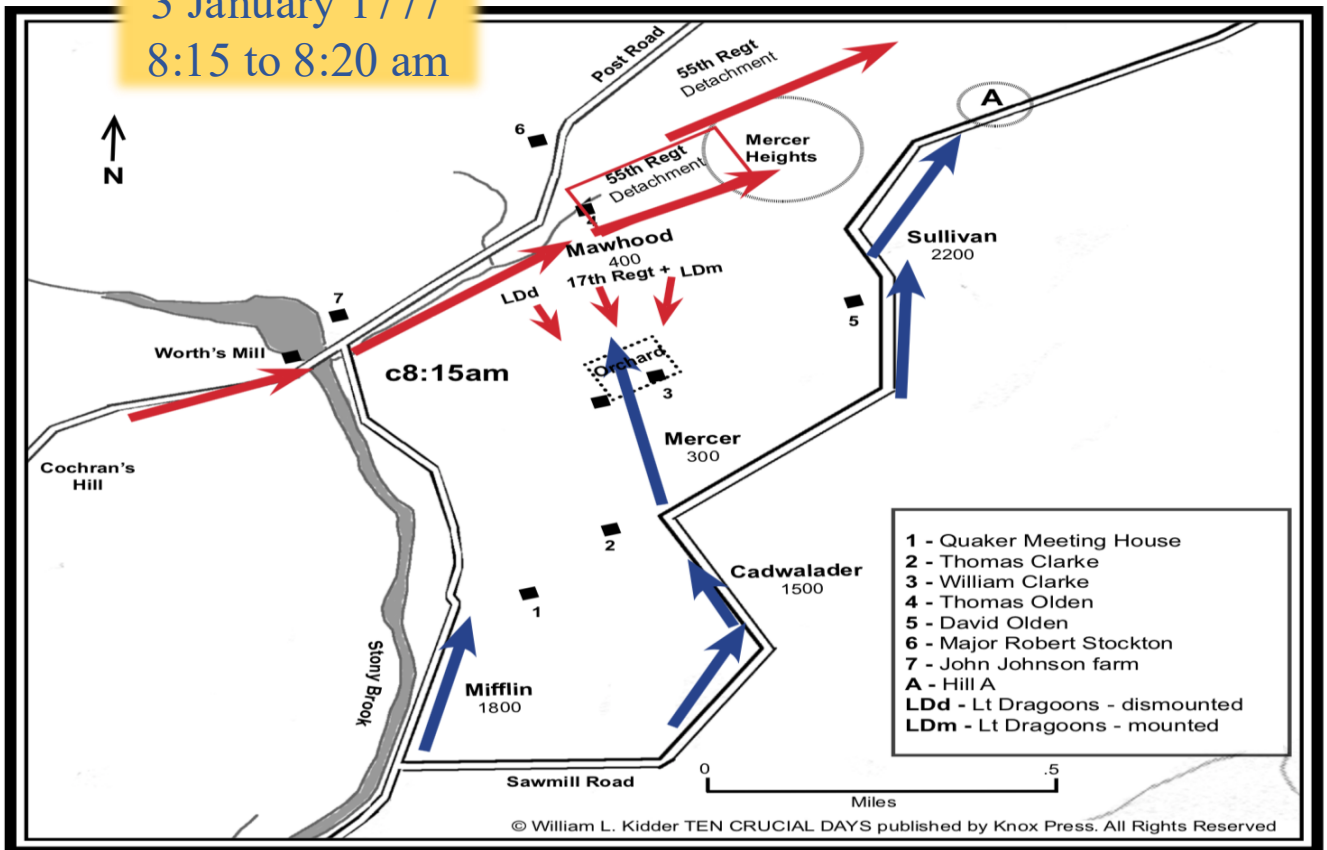
3 January 1777
8:00 am



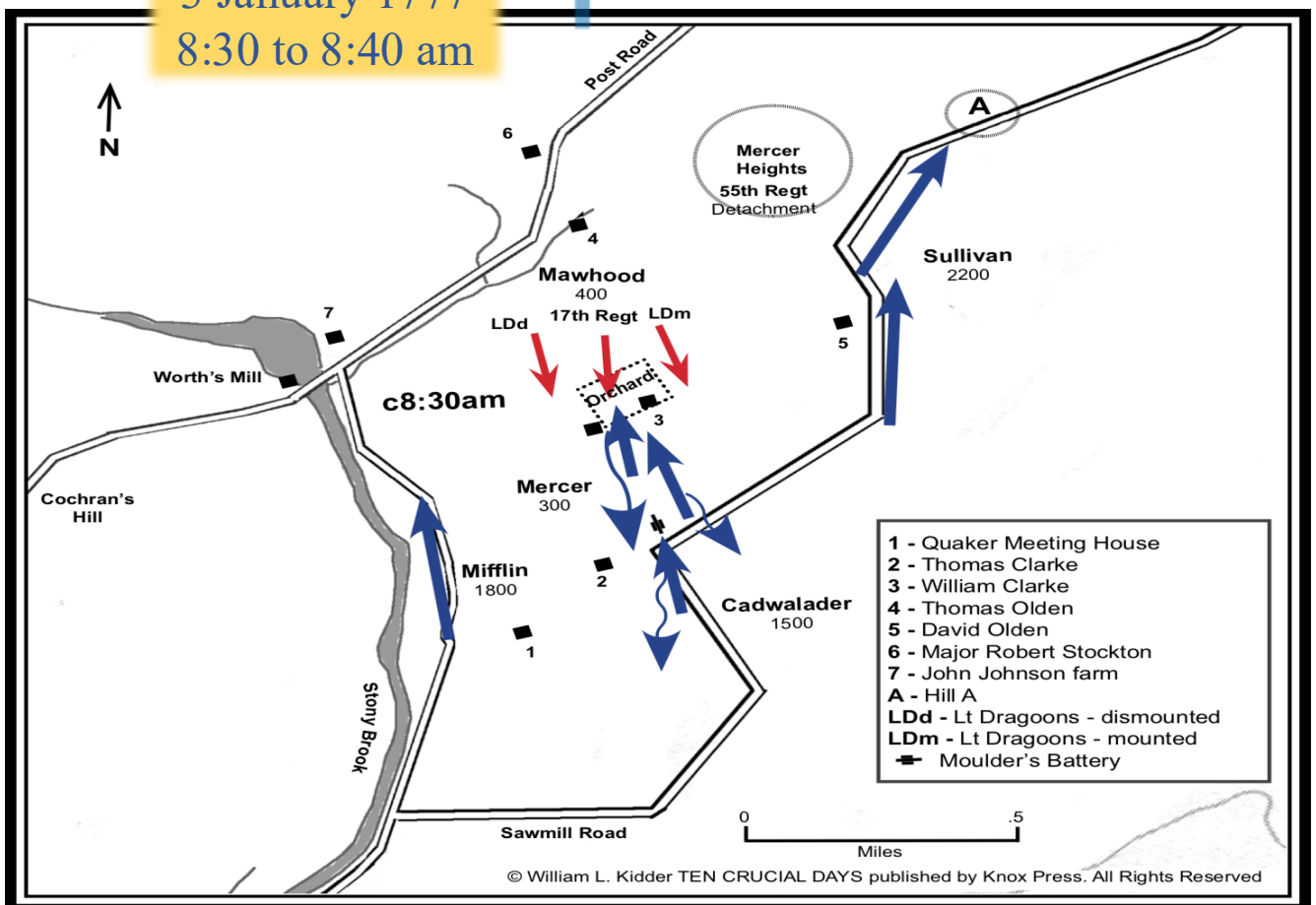
Bird's-Eye View of Princeton 1777



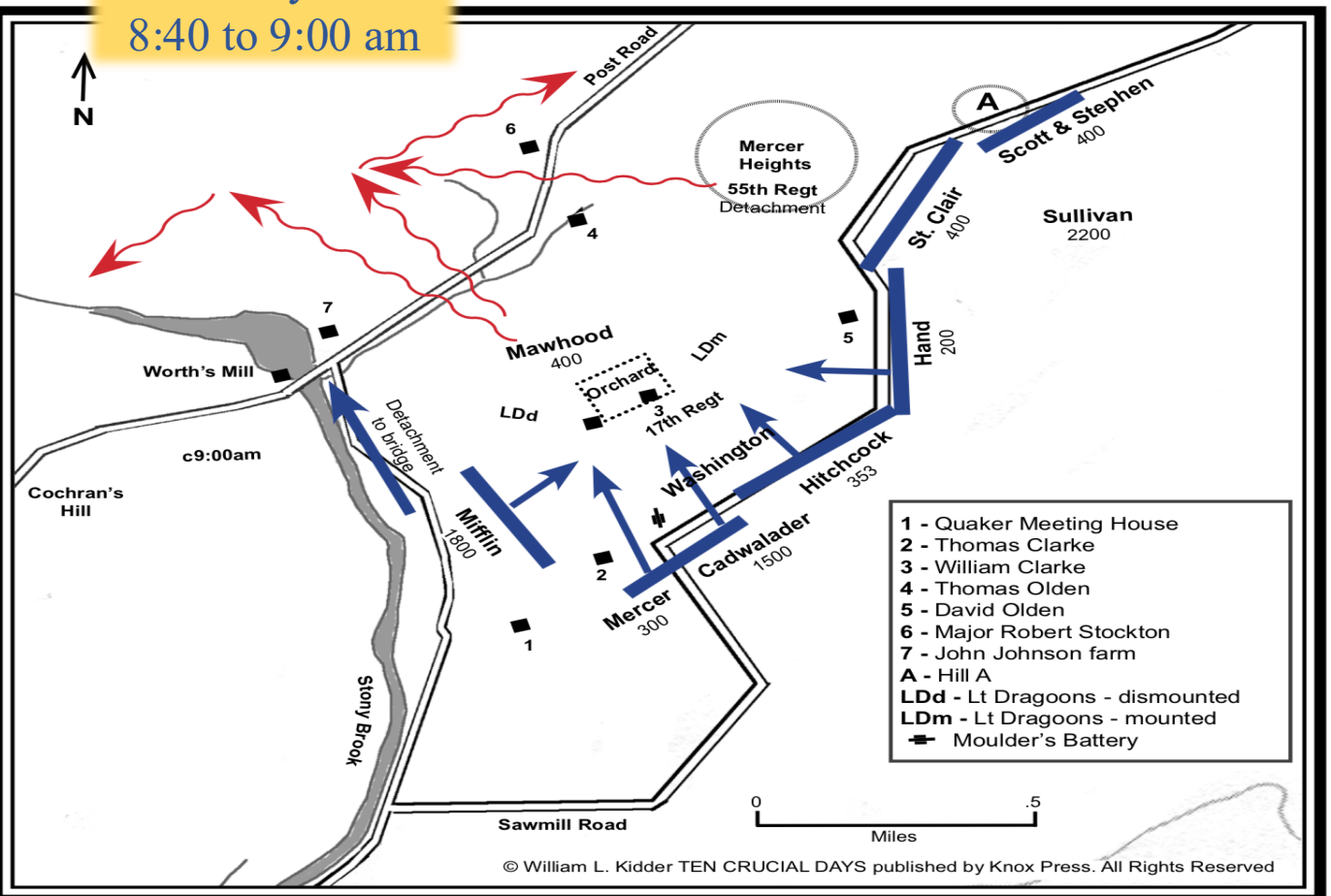
3 January 1777
8:15 to 8:20 am



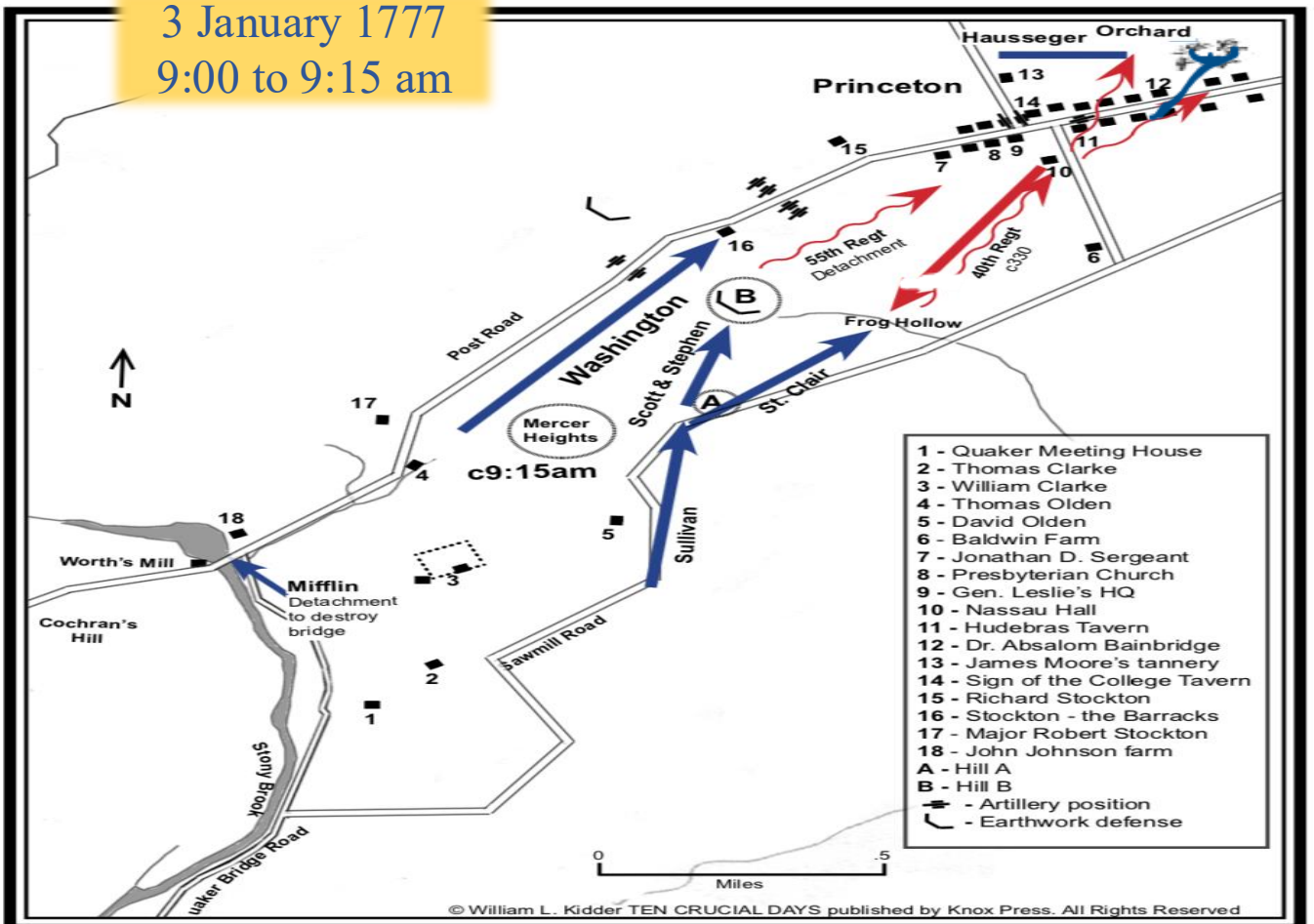
3 January 1777
8:30 to 8:40 am



3 January 1777
8:40 to 9:00 am

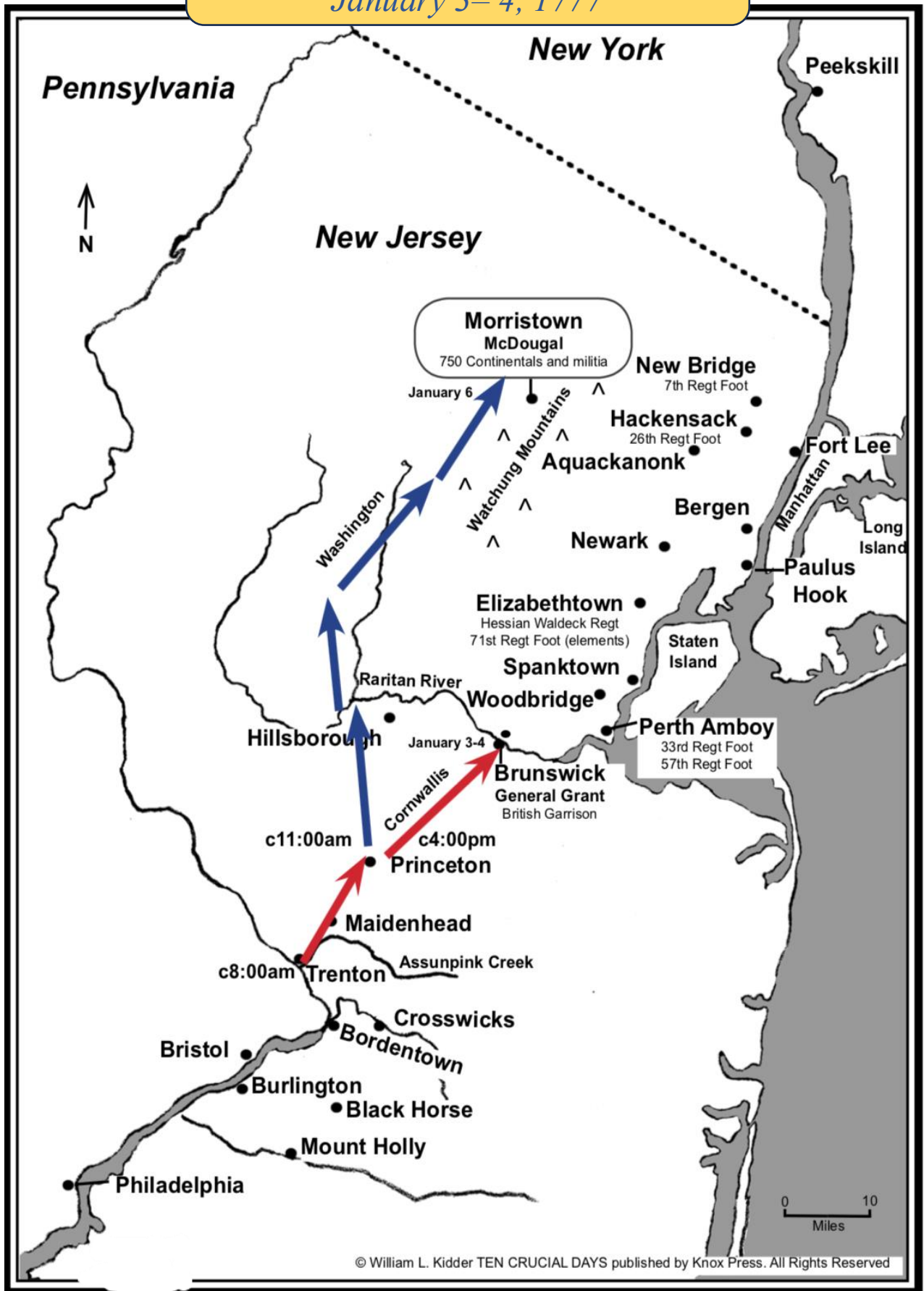


3 January 1777
9:00 to 9:15 am



After the Battle of Princeton

January 3–4, 1777

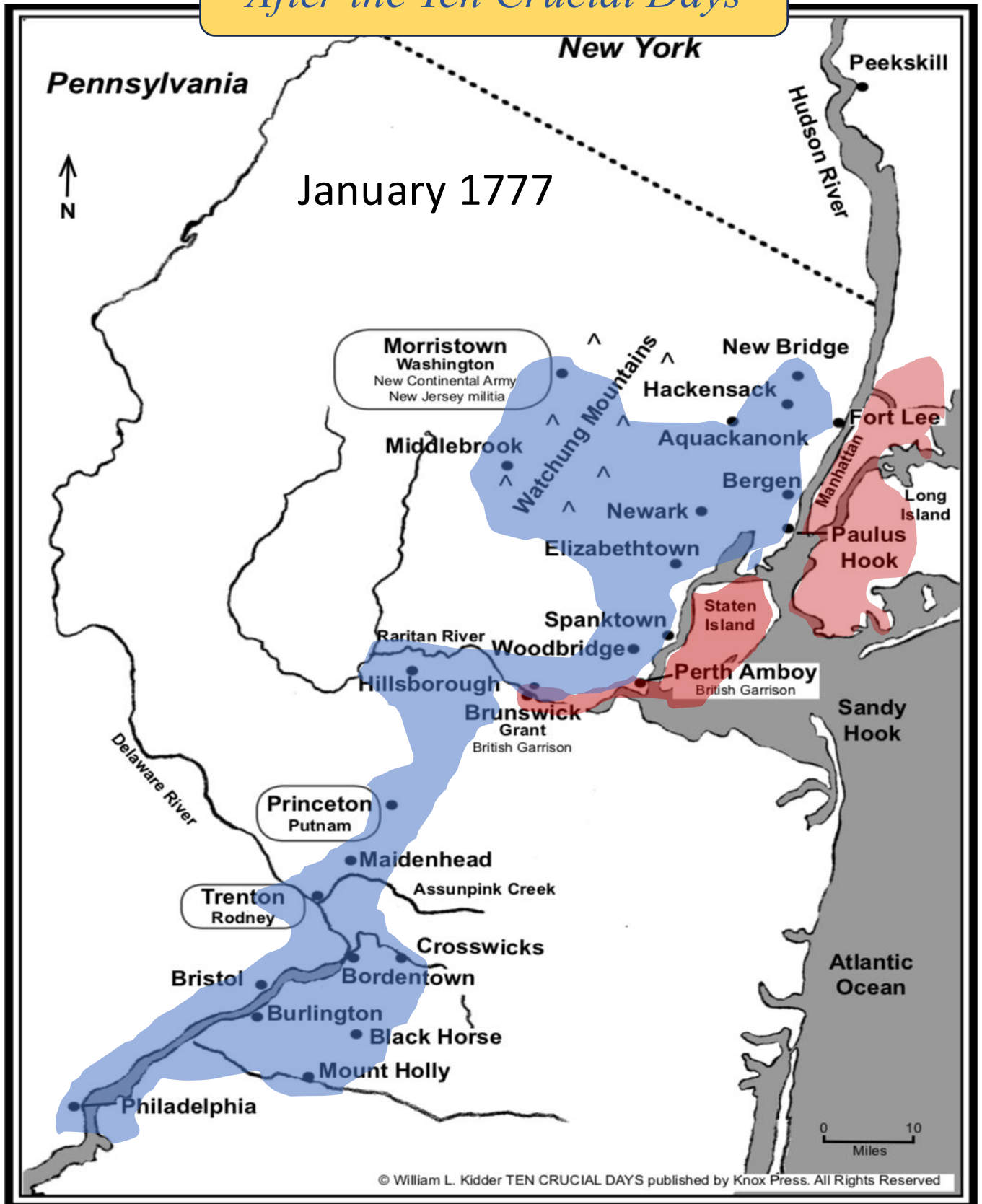


Before the Ten Crucial Days



British Occupation of New Jersey - December 25, 1776

After the Ten Crucial Days



Perspectives on the Ten Crucial Days of the American Revolution

Adapted from the article by David Price, author of *Winning the Ten Crucial Days: The Keys to Victory in George Washington's Legendary Winter Campaign*, *in The Journal of the American Revolution*, March 2, 2023.

For the full article, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ur6zjj25>

The “Ten Crucial Days” winter campaign of 1776-1777 reversed the momentum of the War for Independence at a moment when what George Washington termed the “glorious Cause” of American independence appeared on the verge of final defeat. Washington’s offensive realized a spectacular degree of success in a remarkably short span of time: more than 1,700 British and Hessian soldiers killed, wounded, captured, or missing in action, as compared with fewer than two hundred American casualties; seizure of a substantial quantity of arms and supplies; and expulsion of His Majesty’s forces from most of New Jersey. . The campaign would ultimately be judged among the most brilliant in military history. The Continental Army and its supporting militia bested an adversary who boasted superior training, discipline, and experience, and in the process overcame manifold challenges—supply shortages; harsh weather; desertions; expiring enlistments; and the effects of disease, malnutrition, and exhaustion.

British historian Sir George Otto Trevelyan (1838-1928), from his history of the Revolution more than a century afterwards. “...That was a long and a severe ordeal; and yet it may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world . . .”

Maj. Gen. William Howe (1729-1814), commander of the British army in America from 1775 to 1778, writing in January 1777 to Lord George Germain, British Secretary of State for North America and principal architect of his government’s strategy for defeating the American rebellion. “It is with much concern, that I am to inform your Lordship, the unfortunate and untimely defeat at Trenton, has thrown us further back than was at first apprehended, from the great encouragement it has given to the rebels. I do not now see a prospect of terminating the war, but by a general action, and I am aware of the difficulties in our way to obtain it, as the enemy moves with so much more celerity than we possibly can.”

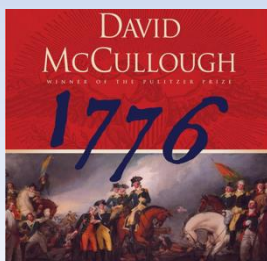
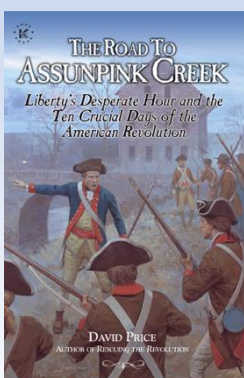
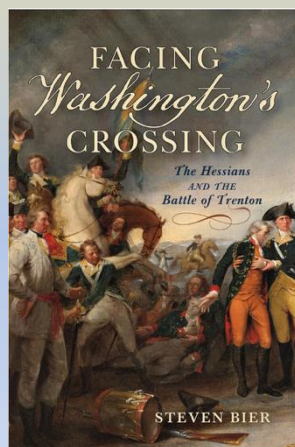
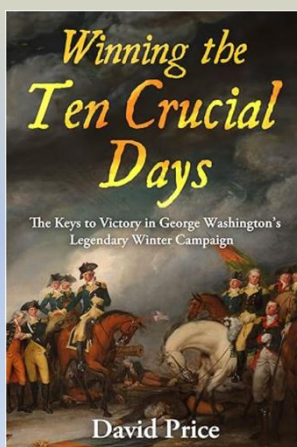
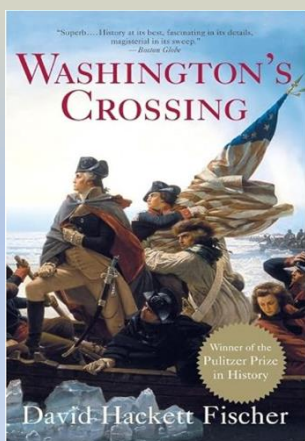
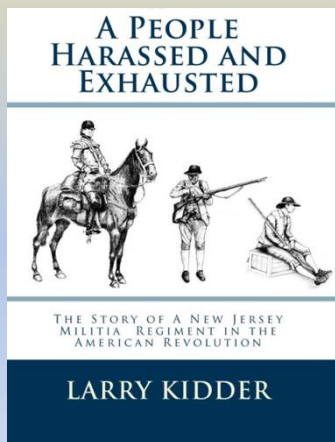
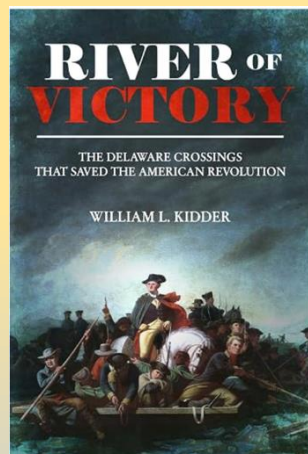
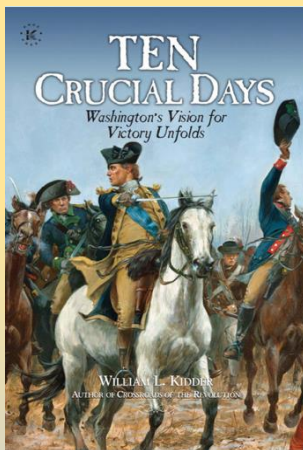
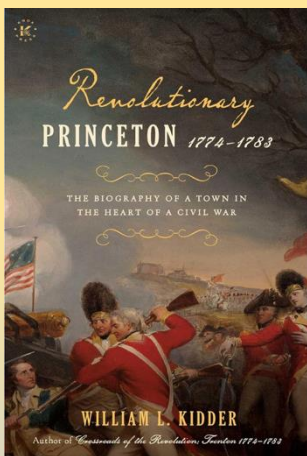
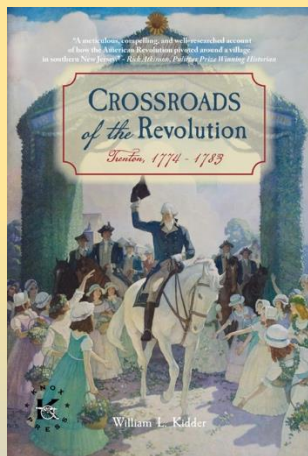
Lord George Germain (1716-1785), British Secretary of State for North America and principal architect of his government’s strategy for defeating the American rebellion, speaking to Parliament in May 1779. “. . . we had a fair prospect of a successful campaign, and of the happy termination of the war in the course of it. But all our hopes were blasted by that unhappy affair at Trenton.”

British Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis (1738-1805), reportedly responded to a toast at a dinner for British, French, and American officers hosted by George Washington after Cornwallis’s surrender at Yorktown, Virginia—the last major military engagement of the Revolutionary War—in October 1781. “When the illustrious part that your excellency has borne in this long and arduous contest becomes a matter of history, fame will gather your brightest laurels rather from the banks of the Delaware than from those of the Chesapeake.”

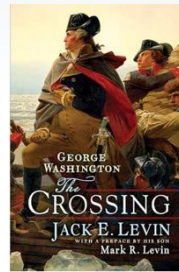
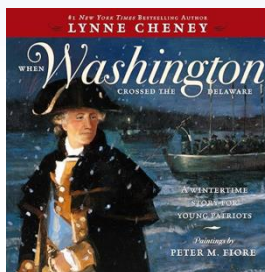
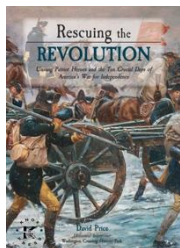
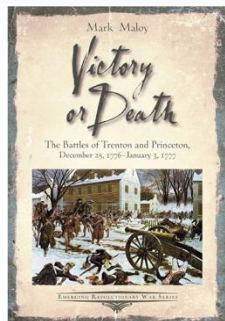
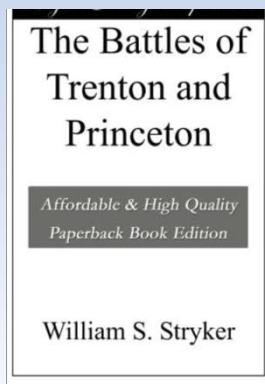
Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald (1744-1813), writing in his diary, “Thus had the times changed! The Americans had constantly run before us. Four weeks ago we expected to end the war with the capture of Philadelphia, and now we had to render Washington the honor of thinking about our defense. Due to this affair at Trenton, such a fright came over the army that if Washington had used this opportunity, we would have flown to our ships and let him have all of America. Since we had thus far underestimated our enemy, from this unhappy day onward, we saw everything through the magnifying glass.”

Nicholas Cresswell (1750-1804), Tory English diarist who journeyed throughout the American colonies from 1774 to 1777, wrote in January 1777. “The minds of the people are much altered. A few days ago they had given up the cause for lost. Their late successes have turned the scale and now they are all liberty mad again.”

Frederick II or “Frederick the Great” (1712-1786), King of Prussia. “The achievements of Washington and his little band of compatriots between the 25th of December and the 4th of January, a space of ten days, were the most brilliant of any recorded in the annals of military achievements.”



Audio book



Larry Kidder
larrykidder@gmail.com

Roger S. Williams
roger@tencrucialdays.org

TenCrucialDays.org
 December 25, 1776 - January 3, 1777

Sites, Sounds & Scribes

Site	URL
1719 Trent House, Trenton	williamtrenthouse.org
Crossroads of the American Revolution	RevolutionaryNJ.org
David Price	https://dpauthor.com
Discover Central New Jersey	discovercentralnj.com
Journey Through New Jersey	journeythroughjersey.com
Larry Kidder	wlkidderhistorian.com
Morven Museum & Gardens, Princeton	morven.org
New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution	NJSSAR.org
Old Barracks Museum, Trenton	barracks.org
Princeton Battlefield Society	pbs1777.org
Revolution NJ	RevNJ.org
All New Jersey's Rev War sites	RevolutionaryWarNewJersey.com
St Michael's Church, Trenton	stmichaelstrenton.org
TenCrucialDays.org 2000 TV Movie	TenCrucialDays.org/TheCrossing
TenCrucialDays.org Art Gallery	TenCrucialDays.org/art
TenCrucialDays.org Booklist	TenCrucialDays.org/read/
TenCrucialDays.org Musical	TenCrucialdays.org/Musical/
TenCrucialDays.org Order of Battle	TenCrucialDays.org/order-of-battle-2/
Self Driving Tour by TravelStorys	travelstorys.com/tours/ten-crucial-days
Washington Crossing Historic Park (PA)	washingtoncrossingpark.org
Washington Crossing Park Association (NJ)	wcpa-nj.com

Questions & Notes

Donations to TenCrucialDays.org support educational programming and marketing of the history and sites of the Ten Crucial Days. To donate, go to TenCrucialDays.org and click the “Donate” button in the upper right corner. Thank you for your support!

The logo for TenCrucialDays.org features the text "TenCrucialDays.org" in a serif font. The word "Ten" is in dark blue, "Crucial" is in dark blue, "Days" is in dark blue, and ".org" is in red. Above the text, there is a series of stars: a red star above the 'i' in "Crucial", followed by several dark blue stars, and a series of smaller dark blue stars trailing off to the right. Below the main text, the dates "December 25, 1776 - January 3, 1777" are written in a smaller, italicized serif font.

TenCrucialDays.org
December 25, 1776 - January 3, 1777